SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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On the march

Thousands take to the streets for St George

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How the UK's version of Motown was developed

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Baggies draw

Second-half performance rescues Newcastle game

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SCHOOL TO GET A £9m FACELIFT

by Alex Ross

A SANDWELL school has been given the go-ahead for a £9 million facelift.

Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Tividale received approval for the project from Sandwell Council this week.

It will involve pulling down and replacing some of its old buildings.

Work will start at the school in Lower City Road in July to demolish three 1950s-built teaching blocks, an empty caretaker's house and four temporary classrooms.

A two-storey English, humanities, special needs and language department will be built in the centre of the school site.

It will be linked to the remaining buildings by overhead canopies.

The move will enable the school to expand to cater for up to 1,080 pupils. It currently has 844 pupils.

The school hopes the work will be completed by spring 2015.

Principal Marie McMahon, who joined the school in February from Hodge Hill Sports and Enterprise College, said: "The plans look amazing.

Welcome

"Our students are really looking forward to having the outstanding learning environment they so richly deserve.

"I am so pleased to have joined the academy at this exhilarating time, and can't wait to welcome the community to the finished facility."

Ms McMahon, who won the Midlands Headteacher of the Year Award last June, hopes to turn round the fortunes of the academy.

The school, formerly called Tividale Community Arts College, was judged to be making satisfactory progress by Ofsted after being rated inadequate in January last year.

Ms McMahon said: "2013 promises to be a landmark year for Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy.

"Our results are predicted to rise again, and we are expecting record-breaking figures in the summer.

"Alongside this, our exciting new phased programme of rebuilding and refurbishing commences."

Rebecca helps leisure centre make a splash

Rebecca Adlington, who has won two Olympic gold medals and a bronze, at the official opening of Tipton's new leisure centre

OLYMPIC swimming champion Rebecca Adlington made a splash when she opened Tipton's £8million leisure centre, and took time to help youngsters with a lesson in the new pool.

And the centre, which Rebecca called amazing, is already proving so popular that its opening times are having to be extended.

More than 13,000 people have tried the facilities, and more than 800 have signed up as members since the centre, in Alexander Road, opened to the public on March 30.

In response, public swimming is being extended on Sundays until 3.30pm, and extra swimming lessons have been added on Monday evenings and Sunday mornings.

The fitness gym will also be open in line with the swimming pool's extended times, and 10 fitness classes have been added to the programme.

Leisure centre membership can now also be used at the nearby Tipton Sports Academy, increasing the choice of fitness classes. The centre is also welcoming additional sports clubs from the local area.

Cabinet member for leisure services Councillor Linda Horton said: "We are delighted with how popular the new centre is proving to be."

● Opening – See Page 3

Pair face charges over death of mother

Tragic – Emma Shaw

TWO men have been charged in connection with the death of a West Bromwich mother, who was electrocuted in her flat more than five years ago.

Emma Shaw, 22, was electrocuted while mopping up water from a leaky boiler, and died on December 14, 2007.

An inquest jury decided that the mother, of Jefferson Place in Grafton Road, West Bromwich, had been unlawfully killed.

Staff from the Crown Prosecution Service in the West Midlands looked at the case and decided there were enough grounds to give police the go-ahead to charge two men.

A 51-year-old and a 52-year-old, both from Rowley Regis, have been charged with offences under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and will appear at Sandwell Magistrates' Court on May 13.

Miss Shaw left a young son, Brayden, who is being brought up by her former boyfriend Andrew Cross.

Lift off for bread plant

A NEW bread plant at Allied Bakeries' factory in West Bromwich will be operational by the end of this year.

Work has begun at the site in Birmingham Road to replace two production lines making Kingsmill, Burgen, Allinson and Sunblest loaves.

The bakery, Allied's biggest in the UK, employs 400.

Planning permission for the new plant to cope with growing demand for its bread was given by Sandwell Council in September.

Patrols at park after residents raise fears

PATROLS are being stepped up in a Tipton park after people were spotted drinking and taking drugs in the play area.

Wardens will be increasing surveillance at Victoria Park, off Park Lane West, after complaints about anti-social behaviour.

Sandwell Council has said it has reported the problem to the police, who say that officers will carry out high-visibility patrols at the park.

One concerned parent who lives near the park, but did not want to be named, said she felt "uncomfortable" and left the park when youths arrived while she was there with her children.

She said: "There were about four or five of them, in their early 20s, who were smoking and drinking while the children were around.

"I know it wasn't a cigarette they were smoking by the smell of it, and they had a full carrier bag of cans next to them at around 5pm.

"Children enjoy going there, and it's a really nice park, so it's sad that they feel the need to go down there and do this."

Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for neighbourhoods services, has promised the situation will be monitored.

He said: "We are grateful for the information and have passed it on to the police.

Sickies cost 41,000 days

THOUSANDS of days of work are being lost at the region's councils due to staff calling in sick.

In Sandwell, just over 41,000 days were missed because of absence in 2011/12. Workers took 8,316 days off citing stress, depression and mental health.

The council's deputy leader, Councillor Mahboob Hussain, said: "These are very difficult times for council staff coping with £60 million worth of Government cuts to our budgets over the past three years."

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Council launches battery recycling scheme

SANDWELL residents will soon be able to recycle batteries and small electrical items from home.

Sandwell Council and its waste partner Serco will launch the new collection scheme next month to boost recycling rates and cut down on expensive landfill taxes.

Starter packs will be delivered to homes with an information leaflet, a small bag for batteries and a larger bag for electrical items. Residents can leave batteries out for recycling on their normal collection day and arrange to have small electrical items taken away by booking over the phone.

Sandwell's recycling rate has rocketed over the past three years – to around half of all domestic waste.

Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell's cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods, said: "We pride ourselves on the first class waste and recycling service we deliver. This initiative means our residents can recycle more than ever before from the convenience of their own home.

"Recycling more also means we will send less to landfill, avoiding financial penalties."

Household batteries can be sealed in the bag provided and left it on top of the blue lid recycling bin. Collection crews will leave a new bag.

Car and industrial batteries will not be accepted.

Small electrical items can be placed in the larger recycling bag. People can book a collection by calling Contact Sandwell on 0845 359 7501. Larger items can be recycled at the recycling centre in Shidas Lane, Oldbury.

15,000 on the streets to mark St George's Day

MORE than 15,000 people turned West Bromwich red and white as they took part in the annual St George's day parade.

Flags and bunting were draped from windows, people dressed up and there was singing as the parade made its way from Westminster Road to Dartmouth Park on Sunday.

The parade featured representatives from the Royal British Legion, the Corby Purple Star Flute Band and the Northfield Caledonia Pipes and Drums.

There was also the British Legion Motorcycle Club and a horse-drawn princess carriage.

Organiser Mark Cowles, from the Stone Cross St George Association, said the number of people taking part was down on last year – between 15,000 and 20,000 compared with more than 20,000 in 2012.

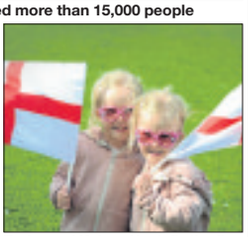
But he said: "We're delighted so many people have come out again to support it.

"Everything has gone to plan. I don't know if it's the forecast that's put some people off – obviously we depend on the weather. But it's still a fantastic turn-out."

Part of the St George's parade at West Bromwich which attracted more than 15,000 people

Hat's the way to celebrate for two parade-goers

Ajay Jones joins the fun



Taylor and Kelsey Nock fly the flag

Support

The march culminated in a fun fair at Dartmouth Park where attractions included medieval re-enactments and a falconry display. Among those joining in the fun were Angela Stevens-Wood and her son Ajay Jones, aged six.

The 44-year-old mother-of-three, a courier from Bedford Road in West Bromwich, said: "I believe you have to support these things. We need to be proud of our country."

Delivery driver Stephen Nock, of Scott Avenue in Wednesbury, was at the parade with his partner Emma and daughters Taylor and Kelsey.

The 39-year-old said: "We really wanted the kids to be able to join in with the parade this year. St George's Day should be celebrated. In other parts of the world people are proud of their country and where they come from, so why should it be any different here."

Ray Hartill, aged 72, from the Tipton branch of the Royal British Legion, also took part.

The former Royal Navy seaman, from Burghley Drive in West Bromwich, said: "It's about time we started celebrating St George's Day. Places like Scotland and Wales have these sort of celebrations so why shouldn't we?"

The flag of St George also flew proudly in Dudley as an annual festival took place in the town centre.

The celebration on Saturday began with a civic procession from the council house to Market Place before activities including music and dance took place on the main stage.

Maggie O'Hara sang patriotic songs such as Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem. This was followed by a dance from 1st Sedgley Morris Men. Secretary Dave Jeffery said: "We have done the event in Dudley for the past six or seven years and we always enjoy it."

Other highlights on Saturday included exhibitions at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, activities at Dudley Library and tours of the council house in Priory Road including information on the historic civic robes and insignia. Alf Dimmock, aged 87, of Sheffield Street in Quarry Bank, was among the Royal British Legion members at the event.

The former private, who served with The Suffolk Regiment in the 1940s, said: "We should celebrate being English. Why not? I am proud to be English."

Man sent to prison for metal theft bid

A METAL thief caught in the act of stealing copper piping from a house in the Black Country has been jailed for three years.

Martin Bennett, aged 24, of Gresham Road, Oldbury, was arrested on February 5 at a house in Russell Street, Dudley, after neighbours heard banging and sawing noises coming from the empty property.

Police saw Bennett and another man climb out of a back window on to a flat roof.

Both were arrested on suspicion of burglary and charged.

Bennett was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court last week after being found guilty of burglary. A large amount of damage was caused as a result of radiators being ripped from a wall for copper piping.

Following the sentencing, Pc Nick Slym from Dudley Local Policing Unit said: "This arrest came about thanks to a quick-witted member of the public."

Operation Steel continues to run in the West Midlands to tackle metal theft, ranging from lead stolen from people's homes to large-scale industrial theft.

Anyone with information or concerns should call their local police by dialling 101.

Baggies' chef hopes for award

THE head chef at West Bromwich Albion is causing a stir in the hospitality industry after being shortlisted for a top industry award.

Mike Bullard, aged 28, is up for the Banqueting and Event Chef Award at an annual bash held by the Craft Guild of Chefs.

Mike has previously been named Chef of the Year at the 2012 Midland Association for Restaurants, Caterers, Hotels and Entertainment Awards, and has gone on to receive national acclaim since joining the club.

He will face competition from culinary experts working for Chelsea, Newcastle United and The O2 Arena.

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Night of glamour returns to The Public

A HOST of burlesque performers will be returning to The Public for a night of glitz and glamour.

Ruby Maihem Burlesque will feature a variety of cabaret and circus-inspired performances.

It will have some of the Midlands' finest burlesque artists, including, Loretta Lou, Lulu Belle Ferrari, Luli Blue, Ava Bonham-Garter and Rainbow Sparkles.

Visitors on May 4 will also be treated to live blues and rock from singer/songwriter Lara Franklin.

The show will also be returning to The Public on New Street throughout the year with a number of specially-themed shows.

On September 21 it will host a Rat Pack-inspired evening of entertainment and on December 14 there will be a Christmas special.

Public managing director Linda Saunders said: "We're delighted that she'll be returning.

"Ruby has bought together some of the finest burlesque performers from across the region, for what promises to be an unforgettable evening of glitz and glamour."

Tickets are £8 or £10 on the door. It is suitable for over-18s only.

Homeless to be helped by law change

THE deputy leader of Sandwell Council has welcomed new legislation to help homeless families.

Under the legislation which came into force in November, families can be offered homes in the private sector under certain circumstances.

Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "We know that in Sandwell we have a large and growing private rented sector. These changes will give the council a greater choice of options when we are dealing with people who are homeless.

"The landlord must be a fit and proper person. The council will make a check on the landlord and also approve tenancy agreements before homes are let."

He backed the scheme at a housing cabinet advisory team meeting.

Charity gets £300k to help tackle obesity

A CHARITY has been awarded almost £300,000 to help tackle Sandwell's obesity crisis and improve the health of residents.

More than a quarter of adults in the borough are classified as obese – a rise on the figure for last year – and Sandwell Council forked out £250,000 on child and adult weight management services in the year 2012/2013.

Now West Bromwich YMCA is introducing a new, three-year scheme to get communities in the borough fit and healthy after being awarded £287,334 by the Big Lottery Fund.

The scheme, called Changing UR Health 4 Life, includes new healthy cooking and active volunteering opportunities.

YMCA project manager Luke Tyler said: "I am looking forward to launching the project within local communities across Sandwell, this being the first of many. It has so much to offer with exercise, cooking programmes and access to training, with most services being free."

The project intends to provide communities in Sandwell with the motivation, support and training to help make healthy changes for life. The scheme is aimed at 16 to 35-year-olds.

Participants will benefit from free lifestyle workshops, learning how to cook healthily and on a budget, as well as being able to obtain a food hygiene certificate. They will also be able to access volunteering opportunities, as well as help to update their CVs.

Participants will have exclusive access to special offers for relaxation treatments including Indian head massage and aromatherapy, to reduce the stress that daily life can bring.

Obesity among adults in Sandwell is one per cent up on last year, although the figure has fallen slightly among children.

Around £250,000 was spent on child and adult weight management services in the year 2012/2013.

Rebecca hails 'amazing' new £8m leisure centre

Rebecca Adlington with the mayor of Sandwell Keith Davies, and children Lottie Ham, aged 12, Alesha Hazelhurst, seven, Molly Jenner-Flukes, seven, and Nejourne McPherson, 11

Unveiled – The Tipton Leisure centre's stunning new pool

The outside iof the leisure centre which cost £8 million and was officially opened by Olympian Rebecca Adlington

OLYMPIC champion Rebecca Adlington officially opened Tipton's £8million leisure centre and was a big hit when she helped youngsters with their swimming lessons.

Report by Naomi Dunning

Rebecca who won two Olympic golds and a bronze, described the centre in Alexandra Road as "absolutely amazing".

The 24-year-old, who is retiring from the sport, was treated to a tour of the centre, before chatting to youngsters who were having a lesson in the new pool.

She said she loved the building's modern look and blue theme, and added: "It's absolutely amazing to see a venue like this. I've seen many, many swimming centres in my time as I've been going to them since I was four, and this is really one of the best, and a really amazing place for people to come in Tipton."

At the opening, Rebecca who is originally from Mansfield but now lives in Manchester, answered questions about her career, and her Olympic successes.

She told the crowd: "The Olympics is just the most incredibly special place, it is like Disneyland without the rides."

She told the crowd that her biggest inspiration was her parents and family who tirelessly gave up their time to take her and her sisters to swimming training.

She said: "They were so selfless, and it was a real family commitment. My mum would be getting up early to take me to training, while my dad would stay home and cook. They were the ones who supported me all the way."

She told the audience that swimming was one of the most important skills to learn.

She said: "It is a life skill, and I think no parent takes their children to the pool in the hope they could swim at the Olympics.

Ballroom

"They take them so they could learn a life skill. It's something that they are going to need at some point in their life."

Rebecca who recently became engaged to fellow swimmer Harry Needs said she had big plans for the future.

The star, who was sporting a large engagement ring, said: "There is no date yet, but I hopefully plan to get married next year."

Before she walks down the aisle, though, the star did admit she would love to follow in the footsteps of fellow Olympian, the cyclist Victoria Pendleton, and take a turn on the Strictly Come Dancing ballroom floor.

She said: "I would absolutely love to do it. But it's something you can't ask to do, you have to wait to be asked."

Rebecca said although she has retired she has no plans to rest on her laurels.

She said she was still very passionate about swimming and planned to be involved in both grassroots swimming and with work with elite athletes.

NEWS in brief

Help wanted to tidy beauty spot

VOLUNTEERS are being asked to spare a few hours to help spruce up an award-winning nature reserve.

The Friends of Merrions Wood have organised the April 29 litter pick at the popular beauty spot, which forms part of the Great Barr Conservation Area and is well-known for its carpet of bluebells.

Merrions Wood retained its Green Flag for the third year running last year.

People are asked to meet at the Skip Lane entrance at 11am.

75,000 homes in region are empty

MORE than 75,000 homes are unoccupied in the West Midlands, valued at around £9.9 billion, it is claimed.

Endsleigh Insurance found the region's slice of unoccupied homes was around 10 per cent of the number of empty homes across the country.

The data found there were 75,875 empty homes in the West Midlands and 693,920 in England as a whole, with the latter worth £115.4 billion.

Arthritis risk for smokers

SMOKING just a few cigarettes a day can more than double a woman's risk of rheumatoid arthritis, research shows.

Compared with those who don't smoke, women who puffed between one and seven cigarettes a day had a 2.31-fold higher chance of developing the disease.

Even 15 years after quitting the habit, the risk was nearly twice as high among former smokers, the research showed.

Property firm in charity boost

SANDWELL Community Caring Trust has been boosted by a four-figure donation from a West Bromwich property agents.

Bond Wolfe raised £2,458 for the trust, which works with elderly and disabled people, as well young people not in work, education or training.

Factory fire alert

A SMALL fire broke out in an extractor fan at a factory unit in Halesowen. Firefighters were called when smoke was seen coming from T&E Display Group, in Mucklow Hill, which makes display units and shop interiors.

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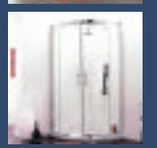

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ON A walk in the park I removed, four "Ding Dong" stickers, stuck to lamp posts by the sort of people who think it's fun to rejoice in the death of a politician you disagree with. Doesn't it make your flesh creep?

□□□□□□□□

I HEARD a Scotsman on the radio raging that he could never forgive Maggie for introducing the poll tax in Scotland before England. Poll tax was nothing more than an attempt to replace household rates with something better, but from his rage-level you'd think Thatcher had sent in the troops to strangle Scottish babies. This week a minority of Brits, thankfully a tiny minority, seem to have lost all sense of proportion.

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MEANWHILE, back at the park, I had a close encounter with a little dog from what is now a rare breed who came over to make friends. It was like stepping back 50 years. Whatever happened to fox terriers?

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IT MAY be a while before we know who committed the Boston bombings but you can bet this outrage was carried out in the name of either God or liberty, or both. In terrorism, the more noble the supposed motives, the wickeder the crimes.

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THE price of gold has been tumbling and thousands of late investors who thought they were on to a sure winner have lost. Remember the first rule of investing, by the time you spot a bandwagon, it's usually leaving.

□□□□□□□□

UNIVERSITY researchers in Indiana have discovered that a single taste of beer makes drinkers want to consume more. If that counts as a discovery in Indiana, they really ought to get out more.

□□□□□□□□

WOOLWICH Crown Court heard this week how four British jihadists planned to attack a Territorial Army centre by loading a remote-controlled toy car with explosives and sending it under the gates. The irony is that as they plotted their attack, a Conservative-led government was hard at work destroying not just one drill hall but the entire Territorial Army. Whitehall's plan is to turn the TA into a reserve force of volunteers who are ready, willing and able to leave their civilian jobs for six months' full-time service every couple of years. This scheme has "doomed" stamped all over it. Over the past 20 years, as the demands of active service have increased, the TA has dwindled from 60,000 to about 12,000. I give the TA another two years at the most. Where the terrorists failed, bean-counters in dark suits are succeeding.

□□□□□□□□

I HAVE no idea who Alessandro Severi is but his letter to the Daily Telegraph this week should be required reading for everyone in political life. He begins by praising the speeches in the Commons debate on Baroness Thatcher as "nobler and more statesmanlike" than anything in any European parliament. He ends: "As an Italian who has been living in London for many years, I think I will be more likely to grasp the laws of cricket than understand why the British people are prepared to surrender the sovereignty of their Parliament to the European Union."

The truth is that we Brits are not prepared for such a takeover and have never been invited to vote for or against it. The whole European project is based on the ludicrous claim that Britain has something to gain, or learn, from Europe. As we look at the collapse of Greece, legalised theft from bank accounts in Cyprus, 50 per cent youth unemployment in Spain, bunga-bunga depravity in Italy and the crisis in Slovenia, does anyone in Britain still believe that? What have we to learn from Europe? How much more are we expected to surrender?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

School's delight over funds success

WORK to transform school kitchens in Wednesbury into an early years unit to help cope with demand due to a baby boom in Sandwell can begin after a successful funding bid.

Mesty Croft Academy will receive £110,000 from the Education Funding Agency.

The facility will allow the primary school to cater for an extra 15 children aged from three to five, taking the total up to 100.

It is hoped work can start within weeks and be completed by next year.

Headteacher Andrew Kirby said: "We're delighted to have got this grant. There has been this boom in population in Sandwell and its a nightmare to find children places. The fact we're offering an extra 15 will be a huge help."

Mesty Croft Academy, St Lukes Road, closed its own kitchens after leaving education authority control in November 2011. Since then hot lunches have been provided by meals on wheels catering firm Breaking Bread, in one of the first projects of its kind in the Midlands.

But Mr Kirby said everyone was embracing the new system with double the number of pupils having hot dinners than when they were made in the school's own kitchens.

"We were down to 50 but, with the service we have now, we're getting 104/105 pupils a day choosing to have a hot lunch," he said. "We're very pleased with the way it's working."

Up to now provision for pupils aged three to five was taking place in separate parts of the school but the new early years unit will bring them all under one roof.

The £110,000 grant will cover the total cost of work.

Mountain bike trail nearing completion

WORK on a £130,000 mountain bike trail in West Bromwich is well on track and part of it could be open within weeks.

The 2.5km track is being built in Jubilee Woods near Swan Pool, Sandwell Valley, and is expected to open in time for the summer holidays in July.

There is also a new "pump track" near to the main visitor centre, and a short distance from the cycle hire shop.

A council spokesman said that was virtually complete and could be open within weeks, subject to a final safety check.

The construction of the trail has been commissioned by Sandwell Council's, parks and countryside management section with the help of Cycling in Sandwell, a local group which has been awarded funding to contribute to the trail's construction.

Popular

A working group will eventually be set up to help maintain the trail once it is complete.

The area being used for the trail is a section of woodland that was a former colliery site.

It is said to lend itself well to mountain biking.

Cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Ian Jones said: "The mountain bike track will be extremely popular in the borough and will attract people from all over the region.

"We hope to have it completed and open in time for the school summer holiday and it will be a marvellous way for teenagers to keep fit and healthy while at the same time having a great deal of fun."

The trail is designed and built by Sheffield's Bike Track Company.

Force's online success

WEST Midlands Police now has more than 20,000 followers on Facebook. They are given daily updates about policing in the region, crime prevention advice and court case results. A spokesman said: "Our social media accounts have been a tremendous success story."

Appeal over tribute to fallen heroes

Tom Bedworth, chair of the Wednesbury War Memorial Campaign Group, and Councillor Olwen Jones prepare for the ceremony

THE Wednesbury War Memorial Campaign Group is urging residents to turn out in force for the historic unveiling of new plinths to remember fallen heroes.

A special parade, dedication ceremony and RAF fly past are being planned for May 5 to mark the unveiling of new stone memorials, and community leaders want residents to show their support.

The four plinths at the Memorial Garden, off Walsall Street, show the names of more than 1,000 Wednesbury men who lost their lives in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts.

These include 424 new names added following painstaking research.

The event will also officially open a new Book of Remembrance.

Dedication

The plinths updated by Willenhall's W. E. Jones Monumental Masons as part of a £57,000 project, show the names of 1,047 men, 623 of whom were included on the original roll of honour.

The parade will start at 2.20pm at Wednesbury Town Hall, in Holyhead Road, and head to the Memorial Garden, where there will be a service of dedication at 3pm.

Lord Lieutenant Sir Paul Sabapathy, Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Keith Davies, representatives from the armed services, veterans and cadet organisations will be among those due to take part in the ceremony.

Trust in new move to reduce infection

THE trust which runs hospital services in Sandwell is aiming to reduce infection rates with the introduction of a new device.

To improve both infection prevention and patient experience, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital NHS Trust is now using one simple device across the trust on the majority of all cannulae, the tubes which deliver or remove fluids to and from the body.

The device will also reduce the risk of needle-stick injuries, protecting patients and healthcare staff alike.

Liz Green, haemoglobinopathy lead nurse at the trust, said: "Studies have shown that the more times the hub of devices such as catheters are exposed to the atmosphere, the more likely they are to be colonised by bacteria.

"The device closes this hub and therefore reduces the risk of infection to the patient.

"The device also helps prevent needle-stick injuries, when the needle slips and injures the healthcare worker."

Charity wins top marks

A SMETHWICK charity has been given top marks for its educational visits.

Ideal for All's multi-award winning Malthouse and Salop Drive gardens in Smethwick and Oldbury are at the top of the class for educational visits after being awarded a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

Awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, the badge combines learning and safety into one easily recognisable award.

Ideal for All is a charity run by and for disabled people in Sandwell to help people learn new skills and live as independently as possible.

Car fire closes a lane on M6

A CAR fire caused a temporary lane closure on the southbound M6 last week. It happened near junction 14 at Stafford. Firefighters were called and the driver of the Rover was unhurt.

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Birthday school's Ofsted celebrations

STAFF at a school in Great Barr are having a double celebration after achieving their best-ever Ofsted results – in the school's 50th year.

Grove Vale Primary was rated as outstanding across the board in a recent inspection by the education watchdog. It had been marked as good in its inspection in 2008.

The school joined forces with Holy Trinity CofE Primary, West Bromwich, last year, sharing resources and ideas.

It has followed in Holy Trinity's footsteps as that school last week moved from being an "inadequate" school to one which "requires improvement". Grove Vale headteacher Alison Connop said she and staff were delighted with the top grading.

"It's a very impressive achievement for us," she added. "Following our last inspection in 2008 we have been striving to get outstanding.

"We're so proud of all the staff and children who have worked so hard towards this.

"We were so happy to demonstrate to Ofsted that everything here is outstanding – not just on the day of the inspection but all the time."

Inspectors praised Grove Vale, which has 414 pupils, for its leadership, which Ofsted said "promotes the highest possible expectation for achievement".

The report added: "Pupils' exemplary attitude to learning ensures pupils' full concentration and involvement in lessons.

"There has been a relentless drive to improve all aspects of the school's work."

The governing body was also praised for its support given to staff and pupils.

The move to become a federation with Holy Trinity is one that has led to almost instant success, and Mrs Connop said the two schools had worked hard to make it work so well. "Federations are a growing trend in Sandwell," she added. "We're very different schools but we've got really good community links, and we share the same vision. There are things that Holy Trinity did well that we adopted and vice versa."

Grove Vale rated outstanding in all four areas it was judged on – the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils and the quality of leadership and management.

The school, in Monksfield Avenue, has lined up a host of activities to mark its 50th anniversary in July.

Outdoor Bard will back at museum

SHAKESPEARE is coming to West Bromwich later this year as two outdoor performances of his best loved plays are held.

The Festival Players will be acting in the grounds of the 13th century Manor House Museum, Hall Green Road.

They have visited the museum before and their performances were a great success.

Most of the plays are performed in the original style, with an all-male cast as women were not allowed to perform on stage in the 16th century.

On June 2, the players will be performing A Midsummer Night's Dream, a comedy tale of fairies and lover's tiffs in the backdrop of a magical forest.

Then on August 4, it will be Romeo and Juliet, a tale of forbidden and doomed love in Verona.

Visitors are asked to bring along their own picnics, rugs and chairs but no umbrellas as they obstructs the view of others. The gates will be open at 4.15pm.

Cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Ian Jones said: "It's great to have Shakespeare performed in Sandwell by a professional theatre company."

Volunteers needed to join friends

BOSSES at the Oak House Museum, West Bromwich, are calling on residents to support them by joining their new friends group.

The is having its historic barns restored so that projects and events can be held there for the community.

In a bid to get people involved, the museum is setting up a friends group to support its work by volunteering at events and activities, raise funds and work with staff to put the site at the heart of the community.

Services manager Jane Hanney said: "This is a really exciting time for us at Sandwell Museums as having our barns restored is going to really improve our site and give us more opportunity to develop new and exciting projects."

Potential volunteerscan contact call 0121 553 0759 or email museumarts_tourism@sandwell.gov.uk

The gang that terrorised town has its reign ended

THEY terrorised a Sandwell town – threatening a supermarket boss, drivers and restaurant customers even with a gun during their reign of terror. But that campaign is now over.

The gang of five can no longer associate with each other publicly and are banned from entry parts of Oldbury and Quinton under an order imposed by the courts.

James Evans, aged 24, Scott Cotterill, 18, Michael Griffiths, 19, Steven Griffiths, aged 20, and Jamie Price, 20, answered for their campaign at Sandwell Magistrates Court last week.

The order even prevents the Griffiths brothers associating with each other publicly in Sandwell despite living together.

Dale Oakley, a duty manager at the Co-op store on Hagley Road West, Oldbury, gave evidence in the hearing.

He said: "They had come in the shop several times and as recently as last week one of them had come in and asked to see the manager.

"They said there were going to wait for me and kill me. They had threatened to kill my family in the past.

"As company policy what we do is verbally ban someone from the shop then get the police to hand over the letter so the staff are obviously aware who they are."

Catalogue

The court heard how despite a temporary Asbo being active since January, Evans and the two Griffiths brothers had breached the order.

Mr Michael Singleton, who represented Sandwell Council, gave a catalogue of criminal events involving the five men dating back to 2008.

This included an allegation that Price, formerly of Fountain Lane, Oldbury, and now living in Walsall, held a gun to the head of a resident in Gardland Crescent in 2009.

Steven Griffiths of Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, was convicted in 2009 for burglary and theft and then later for being drunk and disorderly in a public place, namely Quinton.

His brother Michael admitted in the hearing he attacked a member of staff at Big John's Restaurant on Hagley Road West in the town in 2011.

He told the court he acted within reason because "he'd paid his money and had to wait 30 minutes for his food".

James Evans, leader of the gang that terrorised the area, breached his Asbo

From left, Steven Griffiths, Scott Cotterill and Michael Griffiths threatened to kill a shop manager in a catalogue of criminal activities dating back to 2008

The pair were with Price when it's claimed a chair was thrown at a customer of the McDonald's restaurant on Wolverhampton Road in May as well as punching another patron several times in the face.

Evans, described as the gang's leader, is alleged to have stood on a M5 bridge in April 2010 attempting to throw bollards onto the carriageway. Two months before this incident it's claimed he caused damage to a bus by stabbing the seat with a knife and then making threats to the driver.

Convicted

Cotterill was already serving an Asbo handed to him in November 2011 with the council seeking an extension to the order.

However, late last year he was convicted of an attempted robbery.

Mr Chris Gibbons, who was representing four of the men, asked Cotterill why he shouldn't have the order extended, he said: "I haven't been in trouble for a while.

"I've recently become a father and ever since I found out my girlfriend was pregnant I've wanted to change my ways."

Evans was given an additional stipulation banning him from the Hagley Road West Co-op store.

Mr Wheeler warned the four they faced jail if they continued to breach the order.

NEWS in brief

House to give wedding flavour

A SPECIAL wedding event is taking place at Haden Hill House this weekend.

The house, which is set in 55 acres of award-winning parkland, is licensed as a civil wedding venue.

The Victorian house will be set up as it would be for a wedding or civil partnership to give visitors a true flavour of what their big day would look like.

Staff will answer questions and there will be a photographer, cake maker, representative from a suit hire company and a string quartet throughout the weekend. The house will be open from 2pm to 5pm on both days.

Free limo session offer to schools

A LIMO hire company is offering to help local schools by providing them with a free one-hour limo session.

Finishing Touch Cars in Middlemore Road, Smethwick, is offering schools use of a limousine. It could be used to reward pupils or as a raffle prize for school funds.

Director Jag Mann, said: "We wanted to set up the initiative to help our local community."

Comedian takes look at science

AWARD-WINNING comedian and science enthusiast Robin Ince will be performing at The Public, West Bromwich.

Following his successful, Happiness Through Science tour, the stand-up returns to take a comic look at his favourite scientists – Charles Darwin, Richard Feynman and Aristotle in The Importance of Being Interested on May 18.

Ince is a co-presenter of Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage with Brian Cox.

Cafe planned for site of bakery

A FORMER Firkins bakery in Bearwood Road, Bearwood, which closed in January could be turned into a cafe.

But now it could be brought back into use, after an application was submitted to Sandwell Council to turn it into a cafe that would create six full and part-time jobs.

Raid pair bailed

TWO men arrested on suspicion of cannabis production after a raid on a house in Greets Green Road, West Bromwich, last week have been bailed.

NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

YORKIES are getting smaller. Apparently, there has been a bit of a furore on the internet about the chunky chocolate bars, which proudly take the name from the city where they are made, being reduced from six blocks to five.

Can't imagine the reaction if they ever shift production to Goole.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

WHO ate all the thighs? Well, actually it was Branislav Ivanovic's arm, but I'm sure now he's got the taste for it, Luis Suarez is probably partial to the odd leg of Chelsea defender as well.

"We were watching in disbelief," said Match of The Day sage Robbie Savage, as Suarez sunk his gnashers into the Serbian full-back. "To do that to a fellow professional is shocking and disgraceful".

Don't you just know you've gone too far when Robbie Savage is treading the moral high ground.

It is not the first time Suarez has bitten an opponent, and clearly something needs to be done.

According to 'dog whisperer' Cesar Milan, covering your gloves in foul-tasting liquids is a good way of cutting down on biting behaviour among puppies, as well as pressing your thumb under the biter's tongue and squeezing his chin.

All worth a try, I'm sure, but my favourite solution involves making the offender lie down before meal times, taking the bowl away, and occasionally throwing in the odd treat to show that biting doesn't pay.

Now come on. Who outside Anfield wouldn't like to see Luis Suarez begging for his meals?

❑❑❑❑❑❑

MEANWHILE, a strange line of defence came from the Newcastle United fan caught on film punching a police horse.

"I've got three dogs, a fish pond and I feed foxes across the road," said a tearful Barry Rogerson, after dealing a swift right hook to his four-legged nemesis.

Oh come on Barry, you can do better than that. How about "Police horses? Sunderland fans? All look the same to me". Or maybe "I didn't like the way the horse was looking at me".

If he wanted to be really creative, he could even have gone down the discrimination route, accusing the authorities of misunderstanding the horse-fighting community. Where there's blame there's a claim, and all that.

Rogerson lives on disability living allowance and incapacity benefit, so presumably his lung condition prevents him from earning a living as a full-time horse fighter.

But a fish pond? What sort of football hooligan are you, man?

After the incident, Rogerson issued a heartfelt apology.

"I would like to apologise to the horse," he said. "I am on medication."

You don't say.

Shropshire star – Pat, right, playing for Shrewsbury Town against Peterborough nearly 50 years ago

The young Pat Wright at Derby in 1967 with Brian Clough, left, and Rams Chairman Sam Longson

Eastern delight – Pat Wright, picuted right, meets World Cup hero Bobby Moore whilst playing in Dubai in 1970

Pat still gets a kick from life in football

Pat Wright has spent more than half a century in football but still has passion for the game and for encouraging the new generation. **CRAIG HUGHES** meets him

HE was a professional footballer, coached future internationals and worked for greats such as Brian Clough and Don Revie.

The passion for football is showing no signs of dwindling for 72-year-old Pat Wright. The football fanatic, who originally hails from Oldbury, launched his academy more than 30 years ago after a playing career which started in Birmingham as a teenager.

After well over 200 first team games with spells at Blues, club captain at Shrewsbury, Derby and Portsmouth, he went on to manage and coach in the Middle East.

Pat originally got involved in coaching during his late 20s, while still playing, and has gone on to develop hundreds of young players through his own football academy.

Boss

Former England and Aston Villa midfielder Lee Hendrie, Republic of Ireland centre-half Sean St Ledger and ex-West Bromwich Albion and current Leicester winger Lloyd Dyer are just some to have honed their skills under his tutelage.

He has worked with current Walsall boss Dean Smith and former Saddlers defender Stuart Watkiss, who went on to manage Kidderminster Harriers and Mansfield.

The lifestyles of the current crop of footballers are a world away from the when he started. Pat, who played right back and was a West Bromwich Albion fan as a child, was spotted by scouts at Birmingham when 15. He was part time by the time he made his debut aged 19, also working as an engineer at London Works (Barlows) Ltd in Oldbury.

He would regularly go to work, then trainings, not getting home until 9pm, as he came through the ranks – even later when there was an away game.

Experienced football coach Pat Wright learned his work ethic from Brian Clough

"I used to get up at 6.30am, work until 5pm and then go to St Andrew's three nights a week," he said. "Now they talk about players being tired but its a load of rubbish.

"Putting that shirt on, even playing in the seventh team, was a tremendously proud feeling, then graduating through to the first team. It was just a fantastic feeling to get out and play in front of big crowds."

When at Shrewsbury he got the call to link up with Clough at Derby in 1967. "He had terrific standards, discipline, you had got to do things right," said Pat.

He became player-manager at non-league Waterlooville and also did coaching at Portsmouth at the same time. Then he was contacted by former Coventry chairman and former Match Of The Day presenter Jimmy Hill in the 1970s to help assist Saudi Arabia.

During that time he came across the old Leeds boss and United Arab Emirates chief Don Revie. Pat sought him out and they went on to work together.

The father-of-one, who now lives in Great Barr, enjoyed his time in the Middle East where he got to play alongside England World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore and goalkeeper Ray Clemence.

Working alongside Clough and Revie reinforced his commitment to discipline and his work ethic. It helped fuel his desire to coach talented youngsters.

Stunted

"I just love football, I love seeing kids develop," he said. "I get tremendous pride seeing them become internationals.

"Our kids at the moment, because clubs are bringing a lot of foreign players over, are being stunted. My passion is to get as many English kids as we can to a good level of football.

"You won't get anywhere in football if you haven't got a great work ethic, a tremendous attitude and coachability, that is listening and understanding what the coach says."

He also remembers having the current Saddlers boss as a youngster.

"I am very, very proud of what Dean has done and he is going to be an outstanding manager. He is playing the game properly and he talks a proper game. He was a stalwart at Walsall and he has done an outstanding job."

Pat's academy runs at St Francis of Assisi School in Erdington Road, Aldridge, on Wednesdays from 6 to 7.30pm. He has launched a new class for five to six years-olds which has been inspired by the Barcelona system to teach technique and discipline.

Sessions are also held for six to 11 year-olds on a Friday 6.30-7.30pm and for those aged 11 to 16 between 7.30 and 9pm.

For more details call 0121 357 3602 or email pandesports@patwright.co.uk

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

HOMES in the West Midlands were rocked by thunderstorms which swept over the region leaving a trail of damage. Lightning bolts hit many roofs and chimneys, showering streets with rubble during the wettest April for more than 100 years.

A WOLVERHAMPTON teacher was voted top of the class after fighting a blaze at Oxley Primary School. Philip Hall leapt into action with a fire extinguisher when he spotted the fire in a classroom during lunch time.

FOUR workmates at Dudley factory Kennametal were celebrating after scooping a £300,000 pools jackpot. The win was particularly sweet for Ernie Willetts, who stayed in the syndicate despite being made redundant two months earlier.

1993...

SURGEONS performed a rare operation to save the career of an 18-year-old Wolves player who broke his neck in a freak accident. Darren Shaw became the first patient in the Midlands to undergo an operation in which a metal screw was used to rejoin the top of his spine to a bone in his skull.

WALSALL pensioners launched a postcard campaign aimed at preserving their free travel passes. Members of the Walsall branch of the National Pensioners' Convention went down to London to protest against government plans to cut free travel for the elderly.

A WIN on the pools proved too exciting for Kidderminster great-grandmother Nan Bradley, who passed out while discussing ways to spend her £768,000 jackpot.

2003...

PENSIONERS were encouraged to return to wartime tactics in the battle to stop yobs terrorising their neighbourhood. Elderly residents in Wordsley were advised by police to tape up their windows in a criss-cross pattern – a technique used in the 1940s to stop glass flying into homes during bombings.

NEARLY 40 per cent of roads in Dudley were crumbling and in urgent need of repair. The results were published by the Department of Transport after a series of high-tech tests across the borough during 2001/02.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S lollipop men and women were honoured at a special ceremony to mark 50 years of the service. To mark the national anniversary, all 105 school crossing patrols were invited to the event at the civic centre by Wolverhampton City Council.

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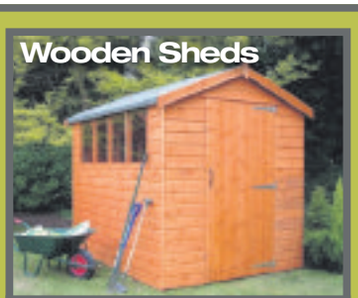

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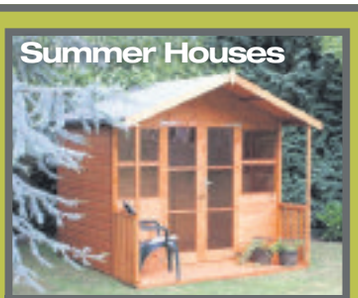

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LETTERS

Let's consider Mrs Thatcher's family

IT is important that I clarify at the outset that politically, I am disaffected, non-aligned, non-committed.

However, the furore over the death of former Prime Minister, Lady Thatcher, has prompted me to write this letter.

I have not voted for some considerable time now.

As a Christian, I am not convinced that any administration from whatever sector of the political ideology or divide, has done enough to demonstrate a crystal clear commitment towards ameliorating the lot of the suffering and poor who are oppressed and marginalised.

I believe in the sacredness of blood, the sanctity of life as well as the respect and dignity of the dead.

I have said all this to say that this is no time to engage in venting vitriolic hatred towards the deceased or to vilify and malign the dead.

Mrs Thatcher has been a wife and mother or a sister and friend to many, regardless of her political persuasion or style of leadership.

It is towards them, the bereaved, that our prayers and good wishes should be directed at this time. Some of the venom that I have listened to is no way to treat someone, a fellow human being, who, for better or for worse, has devoted her entire working and adult life to her country.

May Mrs Thatcher's soul rest in peace and may her family derive strength and true solace.

Dennie Reddie
MSc, MA(Ed), B Eng,
Appleton Avenue,
Great Barr.

The ruling class who preach to rest of us

DAVID Cameron and his team never miss an opportunity to explain the benefits of hard work to us, but when, if ever, did any of these universal misfits do any real work?

It's not fair to hardworking people cries George Osborne, that some should toil whilst others should lay abed, as he describes fellow human beings in need.

Like most of today's ruling class, Osborne has never done a real day's work in his entire life and yet he has the gall to preach to the rest of us.

Why do men born with a silver spoon in their weak mouths such as Osborne's wish to see such devastation on their fellow human beings?

John Davenport,
Wootton Avenue,
Wednesfield.

LETTERS to the Editor

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sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bedroom tax shows lack of compassion

WHEN it comes to the bedroom tax my view is that the Tories and their followers, the Liberals, are devoid of compassion.

I was though gladdened that the Bishop of Dudley and 42 other bishops expressed deep concern about The Welfare Benefits Uprating Bill.

In the coalition cabinet, 23 out of 29 members are millionaires. One can't help but wonder if any of these senior politicians understand what misery their decisions bring to people. Maybe they do, and they just don't care.

One thing for sure, is that whilst protecting their wealthy friends, such as bankers, they seem intent on making life worse for the elderly, the sick, the disabled and anyone else who does not possess great wealth.

Justice, compassion and fairness are words I wish I could associate with the Government, but sadly I cannot.

I would ask everyone to oppose the bedroom tax.

C Stoll,
Brier Mill Road,
Halesowen.

Burden of paying the politicians' pensions

THE Department for Communities and Local Government has launched a consultation on a proposal to end councillors' access to the local government pension scheme.

Paragraph 1.6 of the document states "the public seem generally surprised that councillors are receiving taxpayer-funded pensions at all".

That could be the understatement of the year.

If we had an understanding of why we need three councillors per ward together with a clear job description, targets and monitoring to show that £30k worth of work is done in each ward per year, people might be less surprised.

Taxpayers should also not be burdened with paying MP's pensions.

Katherine Gordon,
Meyrick Road,
Black Lake.

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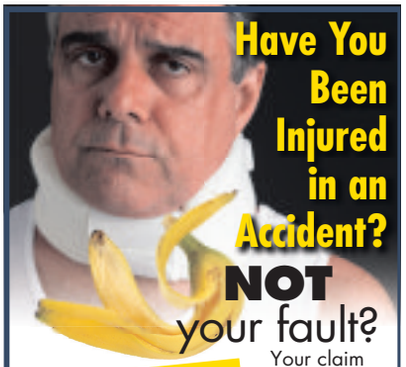

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NEWS

Academy is given £500k for a boost to football

THE RSA Academy in Tipton has been awarded £500,000 by the Football Foundation to create a football pitch and build a sports pavilion. The grant will allow the school to develop first-class sports facilities for itself and community.

by Naomi Dunning

It will use the funding to install a third generation football pitch – a long pile synthetic surface filled with sand and or rubber.

The pitch will replace the 15-year-old synthetic surface.

The pavilion at the Bilston Road school will have two changing rooms, changing and shower facilities for referees and a kitchen so that refreshments can be provided at matches.

Work will start in July, and continue through the school's summer holidays. It is due to be completed in the autumn.

Academy principal Sally Weale said: "This is brilliant news for the community of Tipton, and I know that all of our local community football teams will be as excited about this as we are.

"We are very grateful to the Football Foundation for providing the funding which will enable us to upgrade our facilities."

Foundation chief executive Paul Thorogood said: "The RSA Academy has been extremely energetic and has worked tirelessly in partnership with the Birmingham FA to secure this funding.

"I am thrilled to see their hard work rewarded with this substantial Football Foundation grant."

The foundation has awarded around 8,000 grants, worth more than £420m, towards improving grassroots sport, which it has used to attract additional partnership funding of more than £520m.

Across the Birmingham FA, it has awarded 100 grants worth £14.5m.

Vet practice opening sweet music for pets

Andy Browne, of Stoford Retail, with Peaches, and clinic director Bonnie Leibowitch, with Sophie, and front, veterinary nurses Sophie Williamson, left, with Ozzy and Gemma Ward, with Millie

A NEW veterinary surgery in Tividale has launched a novel method of keeping dogs and cats calm before operations – by playing them relaxing music. White Cross Vets, Regent Road, plays specially-selected music in separate dog and cat wards to create a calming atmosphere.

Tim Harrison, managing director of the family-run veterinary group, said the concept was widely used in America and had been endorsed by leading animal behaviourists.

"We were made aware of the benefits at a recent veterinary conference in Orlando and believe we are the first vets in Britain to have put this into practice," he added.

Delighted

The practice is a £250,000 investment by the Yorkshire based veterinary group. It has been developed by property specialists Stoford Retail. Andy Browne, from the company, said: "I am sure the many local pet owners will really appreciate having such a superb facility right on their doorstep.

The practice is run by Bonnie Leibowitch, who said: "Wwe are delighted that Tividale will be our third in the West Midlands and our 12th in the UK."

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NEWS

New training centre to help 180 people a year

AROUND 180 unemployed people every year will be offered construction training when a centre opens in Smethwick.

Those on benefits will be able to learn skills and gain qualifications in plastering, brickwork and groundwork when the new Northern School of Plastering and Partitioning (NSPP) opens its in the summer.

NSPP was given the green light by Sandwell Council planning bosses last week to fit out the centre for a site on Crystal Drive in Sandwell Business Park, and the plan is to open on July 1.

The firm gets funding from the Government to train those out of work, and can offer courses to anyone on benefits, such as job seekers and disability allowance or housing.

Spending

Managing director Dennis Whaites said: "We offer level two City and Guild qualifications, and we are looking at having about 180 people in to the centre per year.

"The courses are of different lengths, and we also do employability qualifications such as CV building, working in a team and functional skills such as maths and English, for those who need it."

The company is spending around £45,000 kitting out the centre, and is taking on eight people as trainers and administrators.

In a letter sent to planning bosses, Mr Whaites said: "Staff work extensively with local employers to develop a workforce capable of meeting the local and national needs of the construction industry."

Kitten needs loving home

Joyce Clarke appeals for a home for Abigail, the kitten found starving

A CAT is looking for a new home after being found starving and wandering the streets.

Named Abigail by her rescuers, the seven-month-old kitten was discovered on Hurst Road, Bearwood living off scraps including bread left out for the birds.

She was very thin, dehydrated, and suffering from stomach problems when she was picked up by staff at the Wednesbury animal sanctuary.

Joyce Clarke, an animal welfare nurse at the sanctuary, said: "She was found starved.

"She was very very thin, and very frightened. You could feel her bones and she was so hungry."

Anyone who is interested in helping can call 0121 502 5027.

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FORCES SUPPORT MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION

Heres Jacqui's Story in her own words showing that local charity Forces Support really does make a lasting difference.

We received this letter from Jacqui in December 2011:
My name is Jacqui Janes, I'm the Mother of Gdsm Jamie Janes who died on route to hospital in Afghanistan on the 5th October 2009 and I live in Hove. Jamie was 20 yrs old, he isn't just my youngest son, he's my best friend. Since Jamie died, I haven't worked and I'm being treated for PTSD. When Jamie died, I changed the upstairs of my house because I tried to take my own life. Due to being on the sick I can't afford to re-do the downstairs, which Jamie decorated in the summer of 2009. I have a half finished kitchen i.e. tiles and work tops. Everything seems to be going wrong. To be honest I haven't wanted to change the downstairs because I don't want Jamie to think I'm forgetting him, I know I can't live like this anymore. Please help me. Yours Sincerely, *Jaqui Janes*

Here's what Jacqui had to say the day after we finished the work, January 2012:

"Good morning world. It was so nice going down stairs this morning to everything looking lovely. This house is looking like a home again; I really can't thank Bill McCance and his team from Forces Support enough. I love it! You have no idea what a difference you have all made to my life. For the first time in 2 years and 4 months, I really wanted to get myself out of bed this morning xxx"

We received this 1 year on in January 2013:

"Thank you for everything you all did for me Bill, you gave me some control back and I have since moved into my Daughters flat and she and my 3 Grandchildren live in the house. Paris my Granddaughter not only has her own bedroom, but they have a safe garden to enjoy. They have never had a garden before. They have what they call Uncle Jamie's corner, which is helping them with the grieving process. You didn't just help me, everything you did is now helping 3 children who miss their Uncle very much - so thank you just doesn't seem enough xx"

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NEWS

An artist's impression of how the revamped Providence Methodist Church, Windmill Hill, Cradley, will look

Church rejuvenation will let light pour in

HUGE glass windows and eye-catching architecture – this picture shows the planned modern face of a rejuvenated church at the heart of Cradley.

Proposals to revamp Providence Methodist Church to help regenerate the town have been revealed through a series of artist's impressions.

Towering glass windows pouring light into modern community rooms with sculpted walkways leading people from the church to an open public square have been showcased. Exact figures on how much it will cost will be worked out after further discussions with architects.

Residents and church members were asked what facilities they would like to see at the revamped church. These ideas have help shape the designs.

Gentle

The church, off Windmill Hill, will be refurbished and a social cafe, training kitchen and apartments built as part of a Cradley Community Hub.

The refurbished building will house the lunch club, gentle exercise and dance workshops as well as a local nursery and space for sports including badminton and aerobics.

Church members also want to link with the welfare group Black Country Foodbank, which supplies vital food and clothing to struggling families.

It is hoped the foodbank would become tenants of the neighbouring Orchard Works, a former Sunday School off Windmill Hill.

The foodbank will use it as a distribution point, advice centre and training kitchen.

Church member Hannah Wilkinson-Jones said the church was "very excited" about the plans.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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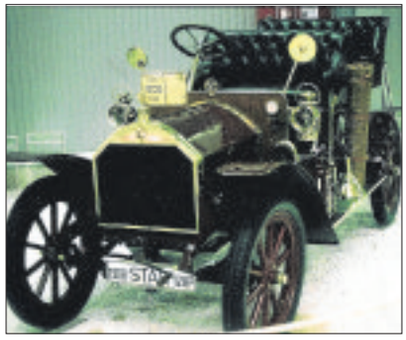
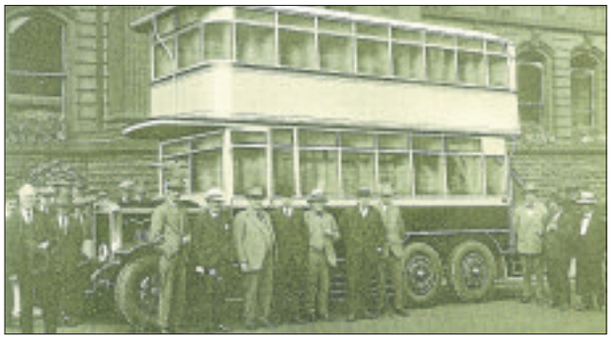
AJS motor cycle testers roaring out of the Graisley factory in Wolverhampton



A 1908 Star car in the Speyer Museum in Germany



A six-wheeled bus made by Guy Motors outside Wolverhampton Town Hall

The return of Motown UK

Work on a Turner sports car chassis at Wolverhampton Airport

AS the huge Jaguar Land Rover engine plant begins to take shape on i54, bringing big time motor manufacturing to Wolverhampton, it is easy to forget there was a time when the city was the UK's equivalent of Detroit, a veritable Motown UK.

by Alec Brew

In the late Victorian era Wolverhampton was the main bicycle manufacturing town in the country. There there were more than 30 cycle makers, and it was inevitable that many would turn to motor-cycle and car making.

The first was Star, which built its first car, based on the German Benz in 1896. Sunbeam made its first car just round the corner in Upper Villiers Street in 1899.

Across the town, the Electric Construction Company was soon dabbling in electric vehicles. The Stevens brothers were soon making fine motor-cycle engines, and then motor-cycles under the name AJS, and a Northampton motor-cycle manufacturer, Clyno, which used Stevens' engines, moved to Pelham Street to be near their supplier.

Sunbeamland, the home of Sunbeam bikes, began making motor-cycles in 1911, while Star began producing cars under the name Starling and Briton, as well as its own. By the First World War Star was the sixth largest car maker in Britain and Sunbeam were third.

Sprang

Just before the war, Sydney Guy left the Sunbeam to start his own commercial vehicle factory on the other side of town in Park Lane, in time to pick up large military orders for his Guy trucks.

After the war Guy and Clyno joined Star and Sunbeam in building cars, and a host of motor-cycle manufacturers sprang up in Wolverhampton to join AJS, Sunbeam and Clyno, among them Diamond, Wolf and HRD. The Villiers company began making two stroke engines, and across town next to Guy Motors, Henry Meadows was formed to make gearboxes and later, diesel engines.

In the late 1920s one by one the major companies shut down, beginning with Clyno, and ending with the mighty Sunbeam in 1935.

Guy Motors remained the only large vehicle manufacturer, with Villiers and Meadows making engines.

These companies were joined by the Turner sports car company at Wolverhampton Airport, but the second decline began with the closure of Henry Meadows in the early 1960s, and finishing with the closure of Guy Motors, despite it being still profitable, because it competed with other parts of British Leyland.

Ironically Guy had been taken over by Jaguar, which became part of British Leyland, and now it's Jaguar bringing jobs back to the city.

The Sunbeam 350 hp land speed record breaker, the first to top 150 mph

A Scammell tanker, powered by a Henry Meadows diesel engine

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NEWS

Thugs attack girl, 14

A 14-year-old girl was assaulted and touched inappropriately by a gang of five men as she was walking in Thimblemill Road, in Smethwick, last week.

She managed fend off the attackers and was left with a minor injury to her neck and extremely shaken.

Insp Sarah Booth, of Sandwell Public Protection Unit, said: "The attackers were five black men, aged approximately 17, with one described as having bulging eyes and neck-length plaited hair.

"I would urge anyone who recognises them or who saw a group fitting this description in the area of the offence on Saturday afternoon, to contact us. CCTV is being trawled and house-to-house inquiries are being conducted."

Shops are warned on underage booze sales

SHOPKEEPERS in Sandwell are being warned they are in the spotlight as trading standards officers clamp down on the sale of alcohol and cigarettes to children.

Test purchases will be made across the borough and shopkeepers are being reminded that failure to comply with the law could result in them facing fines or losing their licences.

Officers are offering advice and guidance to retailers on how they can avoid making underage sales, and being reminded it is illegal to sell alcohol and cigarettes to people under18.

by Tom Mason

Trading standards officers carry out test purchases using underage volunteers to check that retailers are complying with the law.

Between April 2012 and March 2013, 125 premises were tested for selling booze, and 18 were caught selling illegally to children.

During the same period, 11 out of 126 premises test purchased sold cigarettes illegally to children.

Illegal

Mark Beesley, area trading standards officer, said "I'm delighted that the majority of retailers refused to sell to the young volunteers who were attempting to buy age-restricted products.

"However, I am disappointed to see that a minority of retailers still sold age restricted products to young people.

"The issue of underage sales in Sandwell is a high priority for us and our partners, as illegal sales of alcohol and tobacco to youngsters is not acceptable.

"We work hard with the trade through advisory visits, to make sure that retailers understand their responsibilities and are aware of the consequences if they do sell."

The 29 premises found selling age-restricted products to under-18s faced sanctions including £80 fixed penalty notices, cautions and prosecutions.

The 18 shops found selling alcohol to minors also faced a review of their licence leading to stricter licensing conditions imposed, and in some circumstances, having their licence suspended or even revoked.

Cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Ian Jones said: "The consequences for selling age-restricted products to children can be severe.

"The licence holder also faces the prospect of having their licence reviewed and the possibility they may have their licence revoked."

The public is asked to report suspected underage sales of alcohol and cigarettes by calling 08454 04 05 06.

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Labour stalwart Linda to be mayor

Councillor Linda Horton

SMETHWICK'S council representative is to become Sandwell's mayor later this year.

Labour stalwart Linda Horton was first elected in 1994 and already has some experience of mayoral duties thanks to her husband's time as first citizen in 1995.

She said: "I am thrilled and delighted to have been offered the chance to be mayor. It is a great honour."

"It is going to be a hard year but I will give it my best as everyone who knows me knows I will."

As with previous mayors she has chosen to support two local charities, the Birmingham Eye Hospital and BUDS – Better Understanding for Dementia in Sandwell.

Councillor Horton will take over at Sandwell Council's annual meeting on May 21.

Councillor Barbara Price will be deputy mayor with her husband Councillor Bob Price, her consort.

Fun-packed family day is promised for park festival

A FUN-PACKED day is being planned for this year's May Day Festival in Bearwood's Lightwoods Park.

Organisers are hoping that the day will not be marred by bad weather which forced the event to be rescheduled last year. This year the event, which two years ago attracted more than 10,000 people, will be held on Bank Holiday Monday May 6, from 11am to 7pm.

by Tom Mason

Sandwell deputy leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "This is a great event not just for the people of Bearwood but for everyone."

The action starts with Holocene opening the event on a specially built stage and the BCUPS, a local ukulele band, performing at 11.30.

There will be a graffiti art workshop and Sandwell's Strongest Man competition will be held on the bowling green in front of Lightwoods House.

Bandstand

The live music will include Dennis Seaton from Musical Youth, El Funko, Cerys Daisy, Club Berlin, Esther Turner, the Notebenders, Colin Hall's Gypsy Blood, 360 and Soldier.

They are a mix of rock, indie, soul, ska, reggae, folk and jazz – something for everyone.

The bandstand will feature the Halesowen Brass Band and dance demonstrations.

There will be a real ale festival managed by Enville Breweries in association with Kinver Breweries, and 16 guest ales and four ciders be be available.

The day will also feature a fun fair, climbing wall, craft workshops for children, a football skills workshop, refreshments and lots of market stalls.

In the Strongest Man Competition, competitors will face challenges including a floor to overhead log lift, a dead lift, a carry and drag exercise, a tyre flip and a car hold.

For more information about the competition call 0300 012 0121.

Parking for the festival will be on the park extension off Galton Road and will cost £2 a car.

There is also a good bus network into Bearwood and the bus station is on the doorstep.

For more details abouot the festival, call Cherie O'Sullivan, Lightwoods Park Project Officer, on 0121 569 4740.

Ofsted praises 'exceptional' academy

Magdalen Standage-Bowles and other pupils and staff celebrating Shireland College's Ofsted report

STUDENTS and staff at Shireland Collegiate Academy, Smethwick, are celebrating after gaining top marks from Ofsted inspectors for the third year in a row.

On March 13 and 14 inspectors visited the school in Waterloo Road observing 41 lessons and talking to staff, pupils and governors. Lead inspector Michael Merchant said: "This is an exceptional academy, which has maintained and built upon the very high standards seen at the last inspection.

"Staff are highly ambitious for students and fervent in their aim to get the best from each one. Students grow tremendously in confidence and are encouraged to see their potential, work hard and aim high."

The school was also commended for its use of the latest technology to aid students in their learning.

Boost of £1,000 is landed by centre

A SMETHWICK community centre which helps elderly Bangladeshi residents has been given a helping hand by Sandwell Council.

The council has granted more than £1,000 to the Bangladeshi Islamic Centre in Lewisham Road to help it improve life for the area's elderly Bangladeshi residents.

The club which offers people a place to meet, have a meal and exercise, has been running since 1986 and helps about 1,000 people every year.

The council's home improvement agency team gained funding for the scheme from the Department of Health and the council's deputy leader, Councillor Mahboob Hussain, said he was delighted to see charities and voluntary organisations taking advantage of the fund."

Library to swing with jazz band

JAZZ band The Notebenders play at Smethwick's Thimblemill Library on Saturday May 4, and they will invite people on to the to perform.

It will be free for under-16s and £5 for adults and will start at 6.30. For more information call 0121 429 2039 or send an email to thimblemill_library@sandwell.gov.uk

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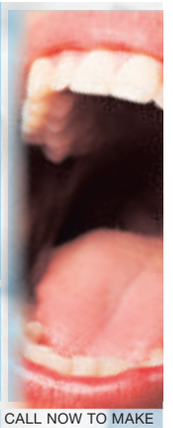

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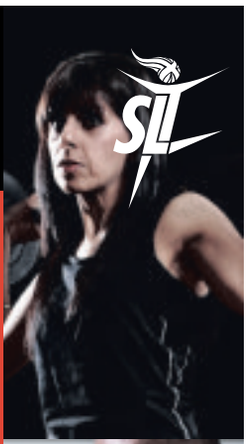

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NEWS

Charity's award hope

A CHARITY which supports vulnerable people in the region has been recognised nationally for its excellent customer service.

Trident Reach the People Charity, based in Oldbury, has been selected as a finalist in the prestigious Housing Excellence Awards 2013.

The charity, based in Popes Lane, was one of five organisations shortlisted for the customer service award. Its innovative, forward-thinking approach to supporting its customers has been recognised.

Winners will be announced at a presentation ceremony in Manchester, on May 15.

Trident Reach provides housing and support services to vulnerable people in the Midlands.

Target set for repairs to council properties

COUNCIL house tenants in Sandwell have a shorter waiting time for repairs to be carried out to their properties thanks to plans to revamp the service.

Complaints about the amount of time it takes for work to be done has forced bosses to introduce a 30-day target system. Council chiefs say they want to make big improvements and are determined to provide a better service.

by Adam Grinsell

Sandwell Homes, the council's housing arm, is introducing the 30-day repairs policy after tenants said they wanted work to be speeded up.

Former cabinet member for housing Councillor Simon Hacket said there was a clear determination to get big improvements to the service as soon as possible.

He said: "When housing services came back into the council I said that we would maintain the excellent work done by Sandwell Homes, and that we would work to improve some areas.

Determined

"It is clear that tenants feel that there should be an improvement in repairs and I am determined that we will work to ensure that there are better services in the future."

Councillor Hackett said the 30-day repair target had been introduced, which should bring some improvements to the services for repairs to items such as floors, general brickwork, plastering and fencing, water tanks and hot water cylinders.

Other type of work covered by the 30 day target includes replacement doors, kitchen furniture and bathroom sanitary ware – but not all repairs will be covered by the new scheme.

Councillor Hackett added: "We have reviewed the time scales and now we are working to delivering our repairs within 30 days, apart from some larger work.

"There will be a small number of repairs of a specialist nature that will take longer than 30 days, including structural repairs, complete roof replacements and replacement PVC windows.

"Over time we will be looking to make even more improvements to the service.

"We will look to reduce this 30-day period and bring in as many of the repairs that are excluded into this 30-day period too."

Management of Sandwell's social housing stock, which houses 29,000 tenants in the borough, returned to council control on January 1 after eight years with Sandwell Homes, which was a separate organisation.

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THE current tough economic conditions are certainly having an impact on the labour market. There are less jobs and employers are becoming increasingly discerning about the skills they want from their employees.

One thing is for sure – the job market is set to become even more competitive in the future.

As a parent with teenage children, this can be a daunting but what can you do?

For the first time in the Black Country you can now make a positive step by contacting a Studio School to arrange to find out about a different option. So what is a Studio School?

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Studio Schools pioneer a bold new approach including teaching through enterprise projects and real work.

This ensures students' learning is rooted in the real world and helps them develop the skills they need for work.

Walsall Studio School is the first in the region and offers young people in the Black Country a real opportunity to gain a competitive edge when they go to employment interviews in the future.

Studio Schools have only 300 students and with class sizes of around 15 and a 9 to 5 working day, they feel more like a workplace than a school.

Working closely with local employers, Studio Schools offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications including GCSEs in English, Maths and Science, as well as paid work placements linked directly to employment opportunities in the local area.

Students will gain a broad range of employability and life skills including practical communication skills, developing how young people relate to employers and the wider community.

Using state-of-the-art technology to learn new skills and forge business contacts

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Our initial intake is for Year 10, beginning in September 2013.

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At Walsall Studio School the whole ethos is geared towards providing employment experience from day one – students will work in our state-of-the-art office environment and they will have to plan and book their own holiday entitlement.

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Driving tips offer for older motorists

OLDER drivers in Sandwell can put themselves on the road to success with a free safety course.

The Driving Safer for Longer Course aims to boost safety for drivers aged 50 and over.

The session will offer help and advice to give people confidence.

Black Country councils lead the event which is supported by the Institute of Advanced Motorists and West Midlands fire service.

The course will focus on a range of safety and awareness skills and refresh drivers' knowledge of the Highway Code.

The free course will run on May 11, at Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury from 10am-1pm.

Places are limited. Book by calling 01384 815433 or send an e-mail to rsafety.due@dudley.gov.uk

Sitcom's Boycie promises revelations in special show

COMEDY legend Boycie will spill the beans on his life in Only Fools And Horses at a one-off performance at The Public in West Bromwich.

by Andy Richardson

Actor John Challis who brought Boycie to life will also tell stories about working with The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Oliver Reed during a 90-minute show.

John will star at The Public on June 1 and recently visited the venue after hearing about its unique design.

Incredible

He said: "I'm a huge fan of The Public and hope to meet my Sandwell fans.

"I'd heard a lot about the venue so I went along to find out what all the fuss was about. I must say, I've never before performed in a pink theatre and I'm really looking forward to playing there. Hopefully lots of Only Fools And Horses fans will come along."

He promised to meet fans, sign autographs and pose for photographs after the show. He said: "The performance is rather like a chat show. I'm joined by a journalist friend and we talk about some of the incredible moments from Only Fools And Horses.

"I also tell stories about working with The Beatles, meeting the Stones, drinking with Oliver Reed and much more."

Only Fools And Horses remains the nation's most popular sitcom of all time. It enjoyed record figures, with up to 25 million people tuning into its best episodes.

John added: "Only Fools and Horses changed my life and a lot of people still remember it affectionately. Everywhere I go, people ask me how Marlene is. I'm really looking forward to sharing some of my on-screen tales – I'll also let people know what happened behind the scenes."

Book tickets at £15 from www.thepublic.com or by calling 0121 533 7161.

The real John Challis, centre, here surrounded by make-believe Boycies and Marlenes from Only Fools and Horses, is revealed at his forthcoming one-man show at The Public

Local band set to get The Public rocking

A FREE evening of live entertainment is on at The Public on Saturday as covers band, The Busby Babes, take to the stage.

Hailing from West Bromwich, the four-piece will take the arts centre venue by storm when they perform a catalogue of hits, including Mr Blue Sky, I am the Walrus, Good Vibrations, and songs from Sparks, Bowie, Squeeze and The Who.

Linda Saunders, Managing Director of The Public said: "The Busby Babes are an incredibly popular band from the region who have an extremely supportive following, so we're delighted to be welcoming them back.

The band take to the stage at 9pm.

For more information about events at The Public visit www.thepublic.com or call 0121 533 7161.

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ELIZABETH 33, curvy attractive blonde, likes walking, socialising, meals out, entertaining, WLTM well educated nice male 50-60's for nice times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403937**

KATIE, sensual curvy figure, well educated, attractive and very adventurous, seeks male for initimate evenings in. Can accommodate, no strings, fun only. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 325325**

HI I'm Jayne very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403749**

LISA 38yrs, tall slim attractive, broadminded, easygoing, loves cooking, homemaking, nice wine looking for very discreet solvent male 50-90yrs to pamper me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403733**

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567**

AMY 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403381**

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTM all round nice guy for adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345**

KERRY, student nurse, just 19yrs. Very naughty girl! Call to hear what I've got to say, ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 228864**

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337**

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795**

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

KEELEY 18yr old slim broadminded blonde, blue eyes, enjoys most things in life, WLTM older guy for fun meets. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403581**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325**

JULIE gorgeous 40, loves the outdoors, theatre, WLTM energetic open-minded fun male up to 60yrs who like me is very loving and tactile. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403571**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883**

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076**

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238**

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528**

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945**

APRIL big bubbly 21yr old female who enjoys nights in/out, music, WLTM caring, loving older male, 30-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402789**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

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BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501**

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297**

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 60109. (T&C's below).

TALL blue eyed 49yr old gent, N/S looking for soul mate, slim lady with no ties and plenty of love to give and receive, is that you? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404121**

KIND caring gent 41. 5ft 11ins, fit build, WLTM similar lady for friendship, maybe more, likes music, the outdoors and eating out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404055**

COVENTRY male, single, 6ft 1ins, 42, caring, GSOH, loves animals, Tai Chi, seeks female, 20-55, single mums ok, any nationality for nice times in/out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384677**

PAUL 60, medium build, fit, virile with strong needs, WLTM West Midland lady for regular mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374821**

MIKE 43yrs, 5ft 10ins, short brown hair, blue eyes, loving, caring personality, very genuine, WLTM lady 20-40yrs for LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403901**

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461**

JOHN 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

SINGLE male, 60, WLTM local lady with strong physical needs for regular contact with no commitment initially. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377459**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

60'S male, medium build, fit, high drive, seeks West Midlands lady who needs occasional male evening/weekend company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381307**

MALE 73yrs fit, N/S, OHAC, WLTM slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403895**

ANDY 46, looking for female, 40 plus for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403869**

TIGER Woods lookalike seeks mature, big, beautiful lady for fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403867**

29YR old male, likes holidays, cinema, clubs, seeks female for friendship and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403759**

ROBERT 72, young looking, retired carpenter, N/S, non drinker, seeks kind, black lady in Wolverhampton area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403641**

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631**

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631**

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585**

MICHAEL 50, nice eyes, seeking female companion for holidays and weekends away, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401479**

STEVE 63, tall, fit, young outlook, likes travel, socialising, holidays, N/S, seeks local lady, 55-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402931**

MALE 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357**

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368871**

SHROPSHIRE male, 53, tall, dark, attractive, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement, any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367373**

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MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

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NEWS

Market opening times cut by an hour a day

OPENING hours at West Bromwich's indoor market have been cut to bring the traders into line with shops in the town centre.

The market used to open 8.30am to 5.30pm but trading has been cut by one hour. Sandwell Council says most traders support the new times, 9am-5pm, but not everyone is happy.

One sign at the market says: "We as the food hall traders apologise to our early customers...this decision was taken against our wishes and against our best advice."

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell's cabinet member for jobs and economy, said: "We carried out consultation with market traders where we sent out a letter and voting forms to all stalls asking their views on whether we should change the opening times of the market.

Voting

"The letter explained that this would bring the market into line with most of the shops in the Kings Square centre and would reflect the fact that many stallholders did not open their stalls before 9am."

He said: "Over 90 per cent of the traders that returned their voting forms stated that they were in favour of amending the market opening times."

But Ninder Johal, president of Sandwell's Chamber of Commerce, said: "Traders need every opportunity to sell their products. I expect the reduced opening hours will be detrimental to traders. It reduces the opportunity for consumers to make purchases when it's convenient for them."

Teenagers scoop iPads

Jo Robb and Iain Cole, of BCTG, with Laura Allsop-Smith, Nathanial Dainty-Share and, front, Ben Thomas who won iPads at the apprenticeships event

THREE teenagers won iPads when they visited apprenticeship advice events.

Training company BCTG organised the annual Real Apprentice events in Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley.

The 16-year-olds were among almost 2,000 young people and their parents who attended. Exhibitors provided interactive stands, and those who took part were entered into a draw to win an iPad. The winners were Ben Thomas, a Highfields School student, from Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, Laura Allsop-Smith, a student at Aldridge School, and Nathanial Dainty-Share, a pupil at Holly Hall School Dudley. They all plan to take up apprenticeship places.

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NEWS

Stuart Hall and Cathy Leyser from Sandwell Council with representatives from the Bangladeshi Islamic Centre

Council grants to keep vulnerable people warm

VULNERABLE people are keeping warm thanks to grants from Sandwell Council.

Community groups and charities have secured money from the council's Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund.

It is part of Sandwell's Winter Warmth Campaign to help people living in cold homes, and to reduce their risk of ill health.

Charity Oscar (Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Research and Thalassaemia Support) secured £2,000 from the fund to give extra support to 200 people with the blood conditions.

Keeping warm helps prevent the conditions flare up, which can mean a hospital stay.

West Bromwich-based Oscar used the money to buy heaters, blankets and hot water bottles for its clients.

And the Smethwick-based Bangladeshi Islamic Centre is using a £1,000 grant to help more older people come to the centre to enjoy a meal, exercise and make new friends.

Funding

The centre provides support, advice and activities to promote the health of more than 1,000 people every year.

The council's home improvement agency team won funding for the scheme from the Department of Health.

Stuart Hall and Cathy Leyser of Sandwell Council's home improvement team visited the projects to hand over the money and see for themselves the work both organisations do.

At the Bangladeshi Centre, project director Abdul Subhan showed them around and Councillor Mahboob Hussain, the council's deputy leader, said: "Making sure residents keep warm is essential to protecting their health. I am delighted to see charities and voluntary sector organisations taking advantage of this fund to help keep people safe and warm.

"We have been working with organisations such as Warm Zone, Energy Extra, Age UK and Ideal for All to deliver our Winter Warmth Campaign, which has also involved energy advice visits to homes, making fuel switch referrals and other activities to help keep people warm."

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NEWS

The 20 included torchbearers, competitors, volunteers and participants in the Olympic ceremonies

Olympic heroes take a bow at Hawthorns

A PACKED crowd at The Hawthorns paid tribute to Sandwell's very own Olympic heroes on Saturday.

About 20 people who had an official role at last year's London Games – torchbearers, games-makers, competitors, organisers, volunteers and participants from the opening and closing ceremonies – came on to the pitch at half time during the Baggies' game against Newcastle, to take a bow and to do a lap of honour.

Sandwell Council leader and Baggies' season ticket holder Councillor Darren Cooper met the group before the match to thank them for representing the borough so successfully.

He said: "It was wonderful to meet so many inspirational people who shone a light for Sandwell at last year's Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"They each have personal stories of achievement which we can all be proud of.

"The atmosphere at half-time was great with both Albion and Newcastle fans giving our stars a warm welcome and showing their appreciation for their efforts on a national and international stage."

Saturday's event was also the start of a campaign to get people to be more active. A website has been launched with ideas to help people find ways to be more active in their daily lives.

The event officially launched the new website, which is packed with details of events, sports clubs and other ideas to help people find ways to be more active in their daily lives.

Councillor Cooper said: "We want people to reap the benefits of more regular physical activity. I urge people to check out the new website."

Log on to the website at www.getactivesandwell.co.uk

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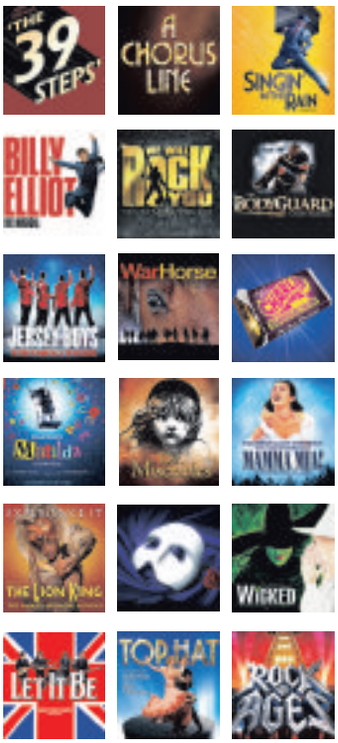

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NEWS

Snow Champions get thanks for their work

MORE than 300 Snow Champions and council workers attended a "thank you" event for their work during the snowy weather.

The Snow Champions who helped to clear streets in their communities with snow shovels and salt supplied by the council, met the mayor of Sandwell, the leader of the council and the chief executive.

Meals on wheels and community care staff who braved severe winter weather to look after vulnerable people, staff at Sandwell Park Farm who helped save animals from snow drifts and gritter drivers who worked 12-hour shifts were also invited.

Bereavement services staff who made sure funeral services went ahead and cemeteries stayed open, and binmen who completed their rounds were also thanked.

A special guest was 15-year-old Jordan Blakeway who attracted 16,000 Likes on the council's Facebook page when he bought grit to help clear an alleyway in Cradley Heath.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "We couldn't invite absolutely everybody, but we wanted to say thank you to as many people as we could," he said.

Blood donor session

A BLOOD donor session is being held at the Sant Nirankari Mission in Wednesbury on Sunday to mark Human Unity Celebrations. Theo Clarke, of NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "It's great to work with the local multi-faith community in promoting blood donation." For details call 0300 123 23 23.

Team's date with legends

Wayne Tolley is urging firms to become sponsors for a charity game against Aston Villa All Stars to raise money for Midland Air Ambulance

WORKERS at a Tipton firm are preparing to take on legends from Aston Villa in a football match for Midlands Air Ambulance.

Wayne Tolley and colleagues from CRF Sections, which makes roller doors, will be taking on Aston Villa Old Boys at Tividale Football Club on August 18.

"It will be absolutely amazing," said the 29-year-old of Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis. "I'm a big Villa fan and it's not every day that you get a chance to play against former professionals."

The Villa squad includes Dion Dublin, Steve Staunton and Dean Saunders, but Mr Tolley will not know exactly who will be playing until nearer the time.

He is asking firms to pay £100 for an advert in the matchday programme.

Their names will be put into a hat and the company drawn at random will then become the official match sponsor.

Mr Tolley said the Midland Air Ambulance did a lot of work in the area.

"In the past week where I live, there have been two air ambulances attending incidents."

Tickets for the match, which starts at 2pm, are £3. Under-10s can watch for free. Call 07447828273.

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CLUB NEWS

Talk full of jokes and anecdotes

WORDSLEY M TWG

A GREAT atmosphere of friendship and light-hearted converse pervaded the March meeting when David Berry gave his talk on 'Humorous look at retirement' with the theme of life, love and laughter. With many tales, anecdotes and jokes, the meeting was a great success.

Pat Hadley gave the vote of thanks.

The Federation's annual lunch will be at The Mill, Alveley, on July 29 and the annual Inter-Guild quiz takes place on June 3 at Stourbridge Football Club.

Liz Hubbard gave details of the charity for the elderly set up by Esther Rantzen called 'Silver Lining'.

The next lunch club meets at The Bell, Kingswinford, on Monday May 13.

A coffee morning has been arranged at the home of Jan Pritchard on Wednesday, May 1 at 10.30am.

Mary Skidmore gave details of an event at Ashwood Nurseries where owner John Massey is throwing open his own garden to the public in aid of the Dudley White House Cancer Support.

The centre will be open on June 1 and July 20 at 10am to 4pm with all proceeds will go to the White House Cancer Support.

At the meeting on May 20 Karon Turnock will talk about CHADD – Woman's refuge.

Guild given Hagley Hall history lesson

Lord Cobham was the March meeting speaker

WOLLASTON 'E' TWG

LORD Christopher Cobham was the guest speaker at the March meeting, which was well attended by 52 members and four visitors, all welcomed by chairman Jean Latham.

A minutes silence was observed for former member Peggy Littley. Secretary Sue Ward then read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly passed.

Treasurer Margaret Gregory gave a favourable report of the financial situation, followed by reports from the various sub-section leaders.

Lord Cobham gave an interesting talk on both the history of Hagley Hall and the family, he inherited approximately six years ago.

The house itself dates from the 18th century, when it was built for the costly sum of £12,500, by the first Lord Lyttleton.

Everyone enjoyed this humorous and enlightening talk and enquiries were made regarding public tours of the hall.

Refreshments were served and the raffle winners were Sue Llewellyn and Carol Longmore.

The May 14 meeting, at 7.30pm in St James church hall, incorporates the spring fair and floral demonstration.

Insight into an extra's life

KINGSWINFORD TOWNSWOMEN

FOLLOWING the reading acceptance and signing of the minutes the correspondence was read. Most important was the announcement of a national raffle with superb prizes.

Tickets will be on sale until May and the result announced at the national AGM in June at Harrogate.

Speaker was Shirley Ireland Jones who talked about Life beyond The Stars, an insight into the ups and downs in the working life of a film and TV extra. Sue Cotterell gave thanks.

Enid Fennell provided the flowers for the chairman's table. Joyce Major was presented with flowers in celebration of a special birthday.

The raffle prize was won by Kath Turner.

At the next meeting on May 13 John Mobberley will give a talk on the decade 1940 –1950.

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Mr. Tony Hardiman, Managing Director at Dyson Energy Services says "We are very proud to have been given the job of bringing the ECO Affordable Warmth service to customers. It's a marvelous scheme whereby those who qualify could receive a new boiler or repair, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation to mention just a few measures – and because our Quality Management System conforms to BS EN ISO9009, this together with a team of Quality Control Officers ensures that our work is of the highest possible standards."

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Tony Hardiman goes on to say "We don't know how long the scheme will be available for so it's vitally important that those households that think they may be eligible should call us straight away to avoid disappointment – **it's free** and could make all the difference between a cold home – or a warm one."

If you're not a low income household, we can still offer you great deals on boiler replacements and insulation.

For more information, call Dyson Energy Services FREE on **0800 833 018.**

Funding for Heating and Insulation available NOW!

ECO* Affordable Warmth provides FREE heating and Insulation improvements to low income households, on certain means tested benefits and tax credits, living in properties that are poorly insulated and/or do not have a working central heating system. You must own your own home or rent privately in order to qualify for this funding (you will not qualify if you live in a Housing Association or Council property).

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  - a child under 16, or under 20 but in full-time education (excluding University) or
  - child tax credit with a disability element or
  - a disability element or
  - a pensioner element
- Income-based job seeker's allowance (unemployed or work less than 16 hours a week) with either:
  - a child under 16, or under 20 but in full-time education or
  - child tax credit with a disability element or
  - a disability element or
  - a pensioner element
- Income support (lone parent, on mat/ paternity leave or carer) with either:
  - a child under 16, or under 20 but in full-time education or
  - child tax credit with a disability element or
  - a disability element or
  - a pensioner element
- State pension credit
- Working tax credit with an income of £15,860 or less with either:
  - a child under 16, or under 20 but in full-time education or
  - a disabled worker element or severe disability element or
  - is aged 60 years or over.

* Funding is through the Energy Company Obligation.

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8 of the Best in Sandwell

The Vine

The recent refurbishment at The Vine has transformed the dining room into an attractive, contemporary setting, suitable for all occasions - be it a business lunch, family celebration, pre-match meal or even an intimate meal for two. The one thing that hasn't changed is the food. As well as its unrivalled range of curries, The Vine is home to the region's first - and arguably the best - indoor barbecue, serving sizzling hot grills, such as their famous chicken tikka.

The bar always has a number of real ales on offer, lagers, spirits, wines and soft drinks. Open seven days a week.

152 Roebuck Street, West Bromwich B70 6RD. Tel: 0121 553 2866

Tipton Homecare Ltd

Tipton Homecare Limited located in the heart of Tipton, providing personal care and support to the people of Tipton and surrounding areas.

It is a common fact that people are most happy when living in the comfort of their own homes, Tipton Homecare Limited provides a solution to those who are unable to maintain all the activities of daily living unaided. Our care services are designed and tailor made to suit individual needs in order that people can remain in their own homes, thus enabling dignity and self respect to those who require that little bit of extra help.

We have been approved and contracted by Sandwell Council as a provider of care services for Tipton, Wednesbury & West Bromwich areas.

To provide the best care and support in order that people may remain in their homes as independently as possible.

5 Venture Business Park, Bloomfield Road, Tipton, DY4 9DB. Tel : 0121 557 3649 / 07889 018517

Crosswells Inn

The little gem of Langley as it is described is a great way to remember The Crosswells Inn. If you are looking for fine dining in Birmingham then you have found the right place...

The bookable restaurant is equipped to cater from a candlelit dinner for two, through to large parties, wedding functions and corporate events, with a large function room which will cater for all occasions.

The inn itself offers a large sports screen , beer garden which is ideal for the summer months, and regularly hold discos and karaoke evenings as well. Hosted by the Masters Live Pub Poker League the Crosswells Inn also holds weekly poker tournaments and regularly sponsors sports teams, including pool, football and dominoes.

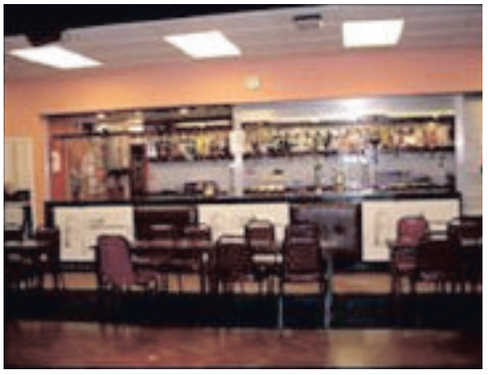
Whyley Walk, Oldbury, B69 4SB Tel: 0121 5522629

TIPTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Founded in the summer of 1964 Tipton Sports and Social club secretary Trevor Pearce is keen to promote the clubs function room as an ideal wedding venue within the region.

The room is available for private hire and seats 150 guests, with a fully licensed bar and also offers catering and entertainment packages.

Ideally placed right by the Coneygree playing fields in Tipton, the club is in a perfect location, close to all transport links. For all enquiries please contact Trevor and the team who are more than willing to help make that special day run as smoothly as possible.



Sedgley Road East, Tipton, DY4 8XA. Tel : 0121 520 1754

Half Price Furniture

Celebrating 35years in the furniture business the owners of Half Price Furniture based in Oldbury, are keen to stress to their clients that this family run business now has thousands of pounds worth of stock ready for immediate delivery.

The company specialise in three piece suites, beds, bedroom furniture and are now extremely busy with the new carpet section.

Based in Oldbury next door to Matalan, Half Price Furniture really is your one stop shop for all your furniture needs, open seven days a week with a huge free car park.

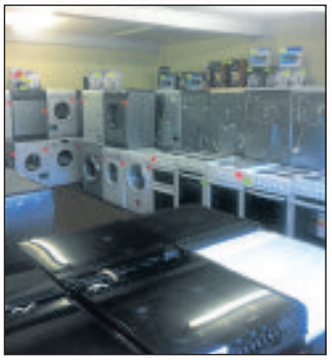
They are just about to launch their brand new website which will go live at the end of April.

Unit B Portway Road, Oldbury B69 2BZ. Tel : 0121 544 5155

All Wash Appliance Centre

All Wash Appliance Centre have been based in Great Bridge Street for over 15 months and offer incredible value on all household appliances. Open 7 days a week and with ample car parking we also offer a repair service on site for washing machines and dryers.

There are fantastic bargains to be had at All Wash Appliance including Fridge freezers from £85, washing machines from £85 and Gas Safe Cookers from £85. We also stock kettles, microwaves, toasters, hoovers and electric fires.



175 Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich B70 0DJ Tel: 0121 520 3376

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Synth pop pioneers returning

ELECTRO-POP pioneers OMD are back with a new album and tour, calling at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday.

Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark emerged during the synth boom of the 1970s, founded on the Wirral by singer and bassist Andy McCluskey with keyboardist Paul Humphreys. Their first single Electricity won them a support slot on Gary Numan's tour in 1979.

Classic

OMD hit the big time the following year with Europe-wide hit Enola Gay, named after the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Their most successful album, 1981's Architecture & Morality, yielded the hits Souvenir, Joan of Arc and Maid of Orleans. More hits followed, including Locomotion and Tesla Girls, before Humphreys left to form The Listening Pool with drummer Malcolm Holmes and musician, turned artist, Martin Cooper.

McCluskey carried on as OMD, having success with 1991's Sugar Tax albumand went on to write hits for girl group Atomic Kitten.

The classic line-up came back in 2007, releasing the album History of Modern in 2010. Now OMD return again with English Electric, their 12th studio album, combining melancholy melodies with similar electronic drive to their 80s classics.

Starsky actor among star names for Grand season

Pop singer out of a salon can spray it again

WHEN he reached the final of The X-Factor and then had a hit, former Liverpool hairdresser Marcus Collins must have thought he would never have to wield a can of hair lacquer again.

However, his first big break in musicals has come in a revival of Hairspray, the 1960s-set soul musical featuring big performers and even bigger hair.

The bouffant blockbuster comes to Birmingham Hippodrome from May 21 to June 1.

Former Crosby crimper Marcus will play Seaweed J Stubbs, one of the coolest kids at a Baltimore high school and the love interest of Tracy Turnblad's best friend Penny Pingleton.

Marcus, who finished second to Little Mix in 2011's The X-Factor, had a top ten hit last year with his cover of The White Stripes' Seven Nation Army and his self-titled debut reached number seven in the UK album chart.

The 24-year-old trained in musical theatre on Merseyside before he combined a career in hairdressing with a stint in boy band Eton Road and then got his TV talent show breakthrough.

Playing big-hearted teen heroine Tracy will be newcomer Freya Sutton while the scene-stealing role of her mother Edna will be played by Waterloo Road actor Mark Benton.

EastEnder Lucy Benjamin plays scheming TV executive Velma Von Tussle.

The X Factor's Marcus Collins as Seaweed Stubbs in the new touring production of hit musical Hairspray

TV cop 1970s heart-throb Paul Michael Glaser, who played David Starsky in Starsky and Hutch, is swapping the mean streets of 'Bay City' California for the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this autumn.

The 70-year-old American actor starred alongside David Soul as the streetwise cop famous for his wooly hat and chunky cardigans.

He is among a number of star names recently announced for the Lichfield Street venue's 2013-14 season.

He will be trading in his famous red-and-white-stripe Ford Gran Torino for a milk cart to play Tevye the milkman in Fiddler On The Roof, about a Jewish family in Tsarist Russia.

Rich

Directed by Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood, it is at the Grand from October 15 to 19.

The character Tevye and song If I Were A Rich Man were made famous in the 1971 movie by Chaim Topal.

The then unknown Paul Michael Glaser was also in the film version.

Former Wet Wet Wet singer Marti Pellow plays narrator Che Guevara in Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Evita from August 19 to 31.

Maureen Nolan is on an emotional rollercoaster as Mrs Johnstone when Scouse musical Blood Brothers returns to the Grand from this Monday, April 29, to Saturday, May 4.

Former Starsky and Hutch star Paul Michael Glaser

WBOS crazy over next big musical

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society stage all-singing all-dancing Gershwin musical Crazy For You at Wolverhampton Grand nightly until Saturday, when there is also a matinee.

Mike Capri directs what promises to be a spectacular production to mark the 75th year of WBOS.

The amateur theatre company puts on two full-scale productions a year, the next being The Full Monty at the Grand in September.

Tickets for Crazy For You are available from the Grand on 01902 429212 or on 01384 377402.

Busy Thea has a town hall concert

PROLIFIC singer/songwriter Thea Gilmore is making a return to the Midlands next month on the back of her 14th album in as many years.

After taking some time out to have her second son, Thea is raring to get back on the circuit and will be playing the Town Hall, Birmingham, on May 5.

Her latest album Regardless will be released the next day and single Love Came Looking for Me is out on Monday The show is at 8pm. Tickets are £16.50 or £18.50.

Tuning into first for opera director

PLÁCIDO Domingo takes his second major baritone role in the Royal Opera House production of Nabucco, shown live on screen at Wolverhampton's Light House on Monday.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 27.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Margaret Thatcher

Young Margaret: Life, Love & Letters
BBC2, 9pm
The death of Margaret Thatcher earlier this month showed that even 23 years after she left Number 10, there are few other politicians who inspire such strong feelings in the British public. But how did she become such an influential and divisive figure, and were there any clues in her Grantham childhood that she would one day earn her place in the history books? This documentary tries to provide some answers by drawing on previously unseen correspondence and interviews with close members of the Thatcher family.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Triathlon. **2.00** Live Snooker; The World Championship. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.30 Doctor Who. Clara is trapped in the malfunctioning Tardis and pursued by monsters, leaving the Doctor just 30 minutes to find his companion before his beloved blue box self-destructs.
7.15 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.05 The Voice UK. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates present the penultimate week of blind auditions, with Jessie J, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Danny O'Donoghue looking to complete their teams.
9.25 Casualty. A robbery at an off-licence ends in violence when the owner is stabbed – and it soon turns out he knows one of his attackers. A confused old man brings his dog in for treatment.
10.15 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Wigan Athletic v Tottenham Hotspur; National Lottery Update.
12.05 The Football League Show. **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** Station West. (1948) **8.10 Film:** Spellbound. (1945) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.30** Just a Minute. (R) **1.00** University Challenge. (R) **1.30** Talking Pictures. **2.05 Film:** Notorious. (1946) **3.45** Coast. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **5.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R)
6.30 Flog It! From Folkestone, Kent. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the evening session on day eight at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where two second-round matches take place.
8.00 Dad's Army. Private Godfrey faces homelessness. (R)
8.30 QI. With Ross Noble, Dara O Briain, Jeremy Clarkson and Alan Davies. (R)
9.00 Young Margaret: Life, Love & Letters. Documentary examining the influences that shaped Margaret Thatcher's life and political career, featuring interviews with family members including her son Mark.
10.30 The United States of Television: America in Primetime. Alan Yentob examines the popularity of TV characters who are outsiders and misfits.
11.30 Blackpool: Big Night Out. The Lancashire seaside resort through the eyes of acts who have performed there. (R)
12.30 Snooker: The World Championship. **1.20** Snooker: World Championships Extra. **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jungle Junction. **6.10** Jungle Junction. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.00** Jessie. **8.25** Saturday Farm. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **2.35** The Chase. (R) **3.35 Film:** Uncle Buck. (1989) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 New You've Been Framed! Favourites. Harry Hill narrates a selection of comical clips, featuring Annette Bening and Kim Jong-il lookalikes, below-the-belt mishaps, mischief and painful-looking accidents.
7.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the third audition show as more wannabe singers, dancers and variety acts try to impress judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon.
8.20 The Cube. A ballet dancer and a support worker try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks, hoping to win a jackpot of £250,000. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield.
9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Peter Andre and music by Rudimental.
10.20 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 Film: Commando. (1985) Action adventure, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
12.20 River Monsters. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Kirstie's Homemade Home. **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** British Rallycross. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Frasier. (R) **11.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.10** The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Secret Millionaire Ireland. **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Come Dine with Me. Corset-maker Serine Daou hosts the final night in Reading, Berkshire. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. Homeowners in Muswell Hill, north London, look around one another's flats for improvement ideas and then spruce up their own on a £1,000 budget, hoping to attract buyers. Postponed from April 13.
8.00 Grand Designs. Restoring two timber-framed barns in Suffolk. (R)
9.00 Film: Season of the Witch. (2011) Premiere. Two knights agree to escort a suspected witch to trial, but are not prepared for the horrific powers she possesses. Fantasy adventure, with Nicolas Cage.
10.45 Derren Brown Investigates: The Man with X-Ray Eyes. A man who believes he can teach blind people to see. (R)
11.50 Film: The Libertine. (2004) Premiere. Period biopic, starring Johnny Depp.
1.55 Hollyoaks. (R) **4.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **12.00** Royal Navy: Submarine Mission. (R) **1.00 Film:** Up Periscope. (1959) **3.15 Film:** Run Silent, Run Deep. (1958) **5.00 Film:** The Caine Mutiny. (1954)
7.20 5 News Weekend.
7.25 NCIS. The bodies of two dishonourably discharged officers are found on board a boat belonging to Gibbs – and subsequent inquiries cast suspicion on his mentor Mike Franks. (R)
8.15 NCIS. The team delves into Vance's troubled past in an effort to trap a vengeful assassin who is determined to strike back at him by targeting his family. Drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)
9.15 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. The enterprising owner of a popular food van is murdered, and the team's investigation leads to a link between the victim and an influential political family.
10.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A killer appears to be targeting members of the gay community.
11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The detectives investigate when two prostitutes are found murdered and the evidence leads them to a religious fanatic who thinks he is saving the women he kills.
12.10 SuperCasino. **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.45** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **9.00 Film:** Blades of Glory (2007) **10.25** Russell Howard's Good News **10.55** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 South Pacific **8.00** The Golden Age of Steam Railways **9.00** Arne Dahl: Bad Blood – Part Two **10.30** The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold
ITV2
2.20 Film: Toy Story (1995) **4.10 Film:** Toy Story 2 (1999) **6.00 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **7.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **8.20** Britain's Got More Talent **9.20** Totally You've Been Framed! **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Plebs **11.40** Britain's Got Talent
ITV3
3.50 A Touch of Frost **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** A Touch of Frost
ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians v Royal Challengers Bangalore. **8.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **9.30 Film:** Public Enemies (2009)
E4
5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Youngers **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00 Film:** John Tucker Must Die (2006) **10.45** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** The Cleveland Show
Film4
2.55 Porridge (1979) **4.45** Never Been Kissed (1999) **6.50** Last Holiday (2006) **9.00** The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **11.20** The Number 23 (2007)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 28.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Sheridan Smith (Left)

The Olivier Awards 2013 ITV, 10.15pm
Sheridan Smith and Downton Abbey's Hugh Bonneville co-host this year's Olivier Awards from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where they celebrate outstanding achievements on the London stage. Hot favourite to land a gong is Helen Mirren. She re-teamed with acclaimed playwright Peter Morgan for her role as Queen Elizabeth II in The Audience. James McAvoy has been wowing the masses in Macbeth, and Will Young dazzled as the MC in Cabaret. Among those performing are the casts of Top Hat, A Chorus Line and The Bodyguard.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.20** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.20** Flog It! (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Great Bear Stakeout. (R) **5.35** The Diamond Queen. (R)

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison visits Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, and presents archive stories featuring the Bastle Houses of Northumberland and Northern Ireland's Mussenden Temple. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts are in Farnborough, north-east Hampshire, where items include the Monopoly game used by the Great Train Robbers while in hiding and a mammoth's tooth.

9.00 The Village. Joe struggles to hide his shell-shock from the family, but Grace knows something is seriously wrong – and when Bert tries to help he only makes matters worse.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Colin Murray reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Arsenal v Manchester United, Chelsea v Swansea City and Reading v Queens Park Rangers.

11.40 Regional Programme.

12.10 Film: Mother's Boys. (1994). Thriller, starring Jamie Lee Curtis.

1.40 Weatherview. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.45 Film:** Never a Dull Moment. (1950) **8.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.30** EastEnders. **2.20** Live Snooker: The World Championship.

6.00 Coast. The team explores stories linked to estuaries around the UK, with folk singer June Tabor examining superstitions surrounding the burial of sailors who died in shipwrecks. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the evening session on day nine at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where two second-round matches take place.

8.00 Bill Bailey's Jungle Hero. Part two of two. The comedian heads to Indonesian archipelago the Moluccas.

9.00 Rupert Murdoch: Battle with Britain. The media mogul's influence on the UK over the past 45 years.

10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Britain. Another themed selection from the show's archives.

10.30 It's Kevin. Bob the studio caretaker goes into hibernation. Last in the series.

11.00 Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights from day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

11.50 Snooker: World Championships Extra.

1.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R)

2.45 Holby City. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. **6.10** Special Agent Oso. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Caninals. (R) **7.15** Caninals. (R) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.20** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.35 Film:** Columbo: A Friend in Deed. (1974) **1.35** You've Been Framed! (R) **2.05** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.20** Food Glorious Food. (R) **4.25 Film:** Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home. (1995)

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a revival of the game show in which contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Featuring a woman who tries to park her mobility scooter between two cars, and an elderly couple asking a mobile-phone salesman for help with a popular video game.

8.00 Endeavour. Morse becomes deeply embroiled in the affairs of a family-owned munitions factory and its dysfunctional owners following the murder of an unpopular worker.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 The Olivier Awards 2013.

11.45 The Unforgettable Mike Reid. (R)

12.40 The Store. **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** Blancpain Endurance Series. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50 Film:** The Phantom. (1996) Superhero adventure, starring Billy Zane. **3.45** Deal or No Deal. **4.45** Five Minutes to a Fortune. **5.50 Film:** Marmaduke. (2010) Premiere. Comedy, starring Lee Pace.

7.30 Channel 4 News.

8.00 The Secret Millions. Gok Wan works with a charity that offers emotional, educational and practical support to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, many of whom are homeless. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: Love & Other Drugs. (2010) Premiere. A cynical womanising sales rep for a drugs company falls in love with a waitress with Parkinson's disease. Romantic comedy drama, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway.

11.10 Film: Dangerous Minds. (1995) A former Marine retrains as a teacher but struggles to earn the respect of her class of low achievers at an inner-city school. Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and George Dzundza.

1.00 How Hip Hop Changed the World. The defining moments in the history of the genre. (R) **2.50** Inside Nature's Giants. (R) **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** SuperScrimpers. **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet. **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **10.20** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.55** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.20** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.20 Film:** The Fifth Element. (1997) **2.45 Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen 2. (2005) **4.35 Film:** Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005)

6.25 5 News Weekend.

6.30 Film: Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, with Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Belle is abducted by a man working for her father.

9.00 The Truth About Travellers. New series. Henry McKean explores the lives of travellers in modern Ireland.

10.00 Film: Harry Brown. (2009) Premiere. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine.

12.10 Soho Blues. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.55** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.45** County Secrets. (R) **4.55** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.35** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great TV Mistakes **7.10** Snog, Marry, Avoid? **7.40** The Voice UK **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45** Barely Legal Drivers **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 The Century That Wrote Itself **8.00** Christina: A Medieval Life **9.00** Neil Diamond: Solitary Man **10.00** Len Goodman's Dancing Feet: The British Ballroom Story **11.00** The Joy of Easy Listening

ITV2
3.35 You've Been Framed! **4.05** Keith Lemon: The Hot Desk **4.20** Britain's Got Talent **5.40** Britain's Got More Talent **6.40 Film:** Twister (1996) **9.00 Film:** Hot Fuzz (2007) **11.20** Celebrity Juice

ITV3
1.55 Agatha Christie's Marple **4.00 Film:** Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner (1985) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00 Film:** Parenthood (1989) **10.30** A Touch of Frost

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket **8.00 Film:** From the Ashes (2011) Documentary about the 1981 Ashes series. **10.00 Film:** LA Confidential (1997)

E4
3.40 How I Met Your Mother **4.40** Revenge **5.35** New Girl **6.00** The Mindy Project **6.30 Film:** Failure to Launch (2006) **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Derren Brown: Evening of Wonders **11.40** 2 Broke Girls

Film4
2.50 Murder at the Gallop (1963) **4.30** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **7.10** Legend (1985) **9.00** Coming to America (1988) **11.20** Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995)

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One of the world's most successful recording artists, with a record 17 Brit Awards, 10 UK number one albums and seven UK number one singles including Angels and Millennium, the Take That star is expected to perform tracks from his recent album Take the Crown, which went straight in at number one along with its lead single Candy, the fast-selling male artist single of 2012.

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
The Invasion, Channel 5, 10pm
A psychiatrist investigating a mysterious, mind-altering epidemic discovers the cause is an alien spore from outer space. As the human race turns into a horde of emotionless zombies, she and a fellow doctor race to save her son, who may hold the key to halting the invasion. Sci-fi thriller, starring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig and Jeremy Northam. (2007)

TUESDAY
The Aviator, BBC1, 11.05pm
Martin Scorsese's Oscar-winning biopic focusing on the early years of movie producer Howard Hughes. A passion for flying dominated his life, as he embarked on increasingly ambitious aviation projects – earning powerful enemies. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Beckinsale, John C Reilly, Ian Holm, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law and Cate Blanchett. (2004)

WEDNESDAY
A Soldier's Love Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A sergeant in the US Army serving in Afghanistan becomes a father figure to a lonely boy who writes to him from California. When the soldier returns from his tour of duty, he visits the youngster and begins to develop a relationship with the lad's divorced mother. Romantic drama, with Lori Loughlin and Johnny Messner. (2010)

The Aviator, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
On Deadly Ground, Channel 5, 10pm
A tough firefighter sets out to stop the destruction of native tribes and the natural environment by an unscrupulous oil company planning to drill in Alaska. Ecological thriller, directed by and starring Steven Seagal, with Michael Caine and Joan Chen. (1994)

FRIDAY
The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, ITV, 10.35pm
An American teenager who is sent to live with his father in Tokyo after a brush with the law becomes involved in illegal street racing. But when he ends up owing money to gangsters after losing a race against a driver with Yakuza connections, he has to learn to master the Japanese style of driving to win and pay back his debts. Action adventure, starring Lucas Black. (2006)
Dark Water, BBC1, 11.50pm
Dahlia moves with her daughter into a run-down apartment during a messy divorce. As she struggles to cope with her custody battle, she is tormented by strange noises, an ominous leak in the ceiling and the growing fear that the flat has a sinister life of its own. When her daughter befriends an imaginary playmate, it confirms Dahlia's suspicions that something otherworldly is happening. Horror remake, with Jennifer Connelly. (2005)

Pick of the Week

Devastation awaits in a race against time

Actors have come and gone, villains have been vanquished and planets have been investigated, some in the blink of an eye.

But one constant in the world of Doctor Who is his trusty Tardis.

Its initials stand for time and relative dimensions in space, it was created by the Time Lords and was supposedly already out of date when the Doctor stole it so he could use it to explore the galaxy. Nevertheless, it still seems pretty cutting-edge to us.

As any self-respecting Whovian will be aware, these intergalactic craft can travel in time as well as space, and are supposed to have a working chameleon circuit that changes the ship's appearance so that it blends in with its surroundings wherever it materialises.

But the Doctor's machine has been stuck in the shape of a 1960s-style police box since the first adventure, An Unearthly Child, way back in 1963, when it was first seen standing in IM Foreman's junkyard on Totter's Lane in Shoreditch.

The decision to use a police box was originally down to economics – it was simply cheaper to use that prop rather than create something futuristic-looking. Anthony Coburn, while rewriting the sci-fi drama's opening episode, is credited with the idea, and deserves a massive pat on the back, not least from the BBC – the Tardis is now a registered trademark, and the corporation must have earned thousands of pounds from selling replicas over the years.

The Tardis is also bigger on the inside than it is on the outside, and contains many more areas than just the familiar console room.

We've had glimpses or heard hints of them before, but this week, we'll see a whole lot more when it's captured by a spaceship salvage team – with Clara trapped inside.

The Doctor persuades the motley bunch to help him find her, taking them on a journey into the heart of the Tardis none of them will ever forget.

"You will go to the heart of the Tardis, you'll see more of the Tardis more properly than you've ever seen before," promises Doctor Who showrunner Steven Moffat.

"Years ago when I was a kid, in the Radio Times there was a little article saying 'in this week's episode the many rooms of the Tardis are revealed.' I couldn't wait for Saturday. But there was a problem with the scenery and they shot it all in a disused hospital and it was so disappointing.

"I thought that some day I will do what I can to get into television and do it properly, and that worked out!"

A swimming pool was seen in that episode (The Invasion of Time, an adventure starring Tom Baker's fourth Doctor, and it was mentioned once more, along with a library, in Matt Smith's debut The Eleventh Hour). So will it turn up again?

"I'm not telling you anything except that there's way more than a swimming pool," smiles Moffat.

Crikey – we can hardly wait to see what's in store!

Matt Smith stars in Doctor Who, Saturday, BBC1, 6.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian
BBC2, 9pm
Ex-Skegness Redcoat, newspaper dogsbody and strip show comedian Dave Allen drifted into showbusiness via a hit Australian series. The beloved Irishman spent more than three decades making people laugh with jokes on Catholicism, politics, sex and sin, before passing away in March 2005. Now there's a chance to refresh your memory of his greatness with this documentary featuring rare, often previously unseen, archive and interviews with family, friends and colleagues. Aside from Dave's son, daughter and widow, other interviewees include Maggie Smith, Stephen Frears and Steven Berkoff. There are also archive interviews with Bill Cotton.

Vicious
ITV, 9pm
No wonder ITV have been trailing this new sitcom for what feels like months– what channel wouldn't be proud of signing up Ian McKellen and Derek Jacobi for the leading roles? They star as Freddie (McKellen) and Stuart (Jacobi), who have been together for 50 years – and have spent most of it bickering. The first episode finds them hosting a wake for a pal, but their fellow mourners probably shouldn't expect much in the way of comforting words – and the buffet is a bit on the stingy side as well. However, the arrival of new neighbour Ash (Iwan Rheon) might inject a little life into the proceedings, especially if their pal Violet (Frances de la Tour) has got anything to do with it.

TUESDAY
Big Body Squad
Channel 5, 8pm
As this rather interesting documentary continues, all attention is on Jane. At almost 40 stone, she's terrified of the outdoors and relies on a three-strong specialist ambulance team to ensure she gets to her hospital appointments. But they can't do it alone - they rely on their supersized ambulance and kit, while Jane must summon all her strength to take those crucial steps out of the house. Meanwhile, cameras follow Lucille as she battles sleep apnoea, one of obesity's deadliest side effects. Plus, the show looks into the fact that a third of children are now classed as obese and wearing school uniforms in adult sizes.

WEDNESDAY
NCIS
Channel 5, 9pm
It's time for Gibbs, Ducky and the rest of the team to celebrate – this week sees the broadcast of the long-running crime drama's 200th episode. The plot is suitably gripping and unforgettable too, with the team investigating the murder of a petty officer who may have been selling secrets to a foreign power. But it's what happens to Gibbs that proves to be the most intriguing development. After being shot at by a mysterious gunman, he has a series of visions of what might have been if he and the team had taken different decisions. But why is all this happening, and is Gibbs really okay?

THURSDAY
Watson & Oliver
BBC2, 10pm
Lorna Watson and Ingrid Oliver claim that seeing the first series of their sketch show on TV was like "waiting for exam results." They're also keen to point out that they don't mind that not everybody felt that all the gags worked, because this time, they feel they've learned from their mistakes. And, if last week's edition is anything to go by, the second run is far better than the first with a lot more laughs per episode. The duo's parodies of TV shows are particularly good, with Made in Chelsea, Call the Midwife and The Killing all being gently mocked in a loving, homage-like way. Expect more of the same in this episode, along with a host of new characters and situations.

The Ice Cream Girls, Friday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY
The Ice Cream Girls
ITV, 9pm
It's the final episode of the drama, and the moment we've all been waiting for is here at last – Poppy and Serena are about to come face-to-face for the first time in 17 years. It's not exactly a happy meeting either – in fact, quite the opposite. Poppy is arrested for approaching her former friend and ends up back in jail as a result. Meanwhile, Serena's identity as the second Ice Cream girl is exposed. Evan is horrified and leaves with daughter Vee. Serena, believing she has nothing left to lose, decides to re-investigate the case of her teacher's death. But to do so, she must discuss the matter with Poppy – an event that causes several revelations to come to light...

The Genius of Marie Curie - The Woman Who Lit Up the World
BBC2, 9pm
Marie Curie was quite a woman; not that you need us or this one-off docu-drama to spell that out for you. While 'genius' is a word thrown around all too easily these days, the Polish physicist and chemist is certainly deserving of that great compliment. Born in 1867, she became a celebrity during her lifetime, thanks to her pioneering research on radioactivity, and went on to become the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. Curie deciphered the theory of radioactivity, and discovered two elements, polonium and radium, but who was the woman behind the science? Geraldine James and David Malone star in this tale about her life.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

16 B	9	7	21	■	23	9	5	5	2	4	10	11
10 O	■	20	■	■	21	■	■	7	■	9	■	21
12	■	2	11	4	5	7	11	5	■	15	■	25
9	11	15	■	■	■	9	■	■	6	21	2	25
24	■	24	■	8	2	1	9	■	■	20	■	24
■	24	22	1	9	■	10	■	10	16	9	4	9
■	■	■	■	2	■	15	■	21	■	■	■	■
4	9	13	9	1	■	1	■	20	10	18	22	■
7	■	7	■	■	24	10	20	8	■	1	■	15
24	10	20	26	■	■	3	■	■	■	9	14	10
7	■	21	■	12	8	9	1	9	10	17	■	12
3	■	21	■	7	■	■	10	■	■	2	■	11
2	3	3	10	15	9	4	5	■	7	19	2	4

1	14
2	15
3	16 B
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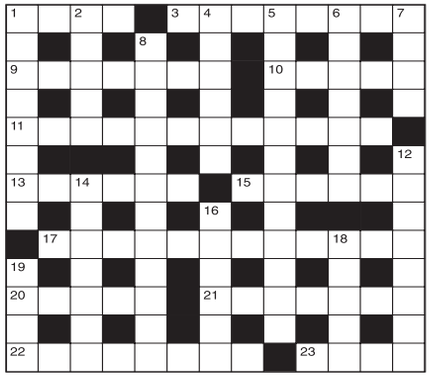
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 A	2 N	3 I	4 R	5 D	6 L	7 B	8 G	9 O	10 C	11 J	12 Y	13 W
14 X	15 H	16 M	17 E	18 V	19 S	20 T	21 F	22 U	23 Q	24 P	25 Z	26 K

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Game unsuitable for women (4)
3. Caution a girl (8)
9. Essentially he tucked into a pastry dish (2,5)
10. After a drink half the band provide dance music (5)
11. Isn't it particular what it sells? (7,5)
13. After the road is renovated it is showing skill (6)
15. It goes round, applying pressure where needed (6)
17. What one has to be in to engage in the class war? (8,4)
20. Pieces of land in the Far East (5)
21. Rings about train disaster in Canada (7)
22. Sacked, no doubt! (2,3,3)
23. Is the French description of Malta, perhaps (4)

Down

1. Impress a sailor without his knowing! (8)
2. Like a layer of wood (5)
4. This snake is poisonous, yet a baby may play with it! (6)
5. Hardly bright ideas! (4,8)
6. Possibly one rule man has had to change (7)
7. Times some of the rasher drivers (4)
8. It's said to be a way to ensure a good stretch of repentance (5,2,5)
12. It's used extensively by bandsmen (8)
14. Wear and tear about an object (7)
16. Sensitive plant (6)
18. Monsters that help to make progress (5)
19. It can give one airs, after a fashion (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Quote (4)
3. Crusade (8)
9. Harmful (7)
10. Morning reception (5)
11. Ingrained habit (6,6)
13. Foreign (6)
15. Anew (6)
17. Irrational belief (12)
20. Distort (5)
21. Raise (7)
22. Maim (8)
23. Exceedingly (4)

Down

1. Box (8)
2. Poisonous (5)
4. Agree (6)
5. Lowest RAF commission (5-7)
6. Upside down (7)
7. Requirement (4)
8. Agreeing by chance (12)
12. Stormy (8)
14. Eye-specialist (7)
16. Declare (6)
18. Angry (5)
19. Separate particular (4)

Sudoku

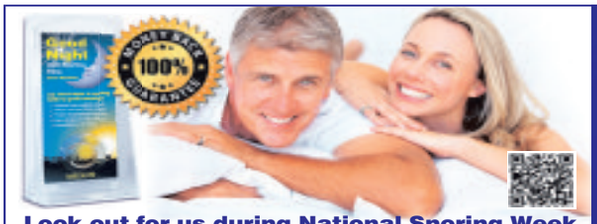
	5	8				1		4
	4			1	3		6	
3						9		2
	2	7	9		8			
	8		7		1		2	
					6	7	5	
4		2						
	6		1	7			9	
1			2			3	4	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	6	3	1	8	9	2	7
2	3	9	5	7	4	1	6	8
8	1	7	6	2	9	5	4	3
6	7	1	4	8	5	3	9	2
3	8	4	9	6	2	7	1	5
9	5	2	1	3	7	6	8	4
4	2	5	7	9	6	8	3	1
1	9	8	2	5	3	4	7	6
7	6	3	8	4	1	2	5	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Enraged; 7 Get on; 9 Blunt; 10 Ribands; 12 Rear windows; 14 Staff nurses; 18 Toddler; 19 Lyric; 21 Sheep; 22 Stretch. Down: 1 Ingle; 2 Pawnee; 3 Net; 4 Relaid; 5 Low-down; 8 Riviera; 11 Printer; 13 Atrophy; 15 Fidget; 16 Elysee; 17 Pinch; 20 Sty. QUICK - Across: 6 Appoint; 7 Minor; 9 Later; 10 Cushion; 12 Wooden spoon; 14 Part company; 18 Cavalry; 19 Amass; 21 Acted; 22 Ordered. Down: 1 Speak; 2 Bolero; 3 End; 4 Bishop; 5 Solomon; 8 Turnips; 11 Adjourn; 13 Balance; 15 Travel; 16 Number; 17 Askew; 20 Art.



Look out for us during National Snoring Week
April 22-28th

Good Night Ring

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Home of Property

Your top property guide covering homes for sale and to let in Wednesbury, West Bromwich, Smethwick and Tipton – and more

Three-bed bungalow for offers of £189,950

A THREE bedroom detached bungalow in Pool Lane, Oldbury, is for sale priced at £189,950.

The property has central heating and double glazing (where specified) with accommodation briefly comprising of entrance hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, conservatory, family bathroom and the three bedrooms – plus front driveway, garage and rear garden.

The fitted kitchen, 16ft 3in by 9ft 5in, has a range of wall and base units, roll top work surfaces, stainless steel sink drainer, five ring gas hob with cooker hood above, integrated oven and door to utility with plumbing for washing machine and dishwasher.

The lounge, 17ft 2in by 13ft 1in, has a feature brick fireplace with gas fire point and double doors to a conservatory which is 12ft 7in by 10ft and has double doors to the rear garden.

There are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panel bath, shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

The rear garden has a paved patio area, lawn and well stocked borders.

Call the agent Bairstow Eves on 0121 422 0090 for further details of to arrange a viewing.

The agent Bairstow Eves has details for the bugalow in Pool Lane, Oldbury, which has three bedrooms

Viewing this home is highly recommended

This three/four bed house has central heating and double glazing

VIEWING is recommended at this three/four bedroom link-detached house in Ettinghsall Park, for sale based on offers over £149,950.

The property in Ettingshall Park Farm Lane has central heating and double glazing. It is approached over an asphalt/block paved driveway past a lawn, and the lounge, 15ft by 11ft 9in, has a coal effect gas fire with briquette fireplace and tiled hearth and the dining room is 10ft 9in by 7ft 6in.

The kitchen has a single drainer stainless steel sink with base and wall units, roll edge work tops and plumbing for dishwasher, with a utility with plumbing for washing machine and tumble dryer.

There is also a a reception room/bedroom four which is 11ft 9in by 8ft 4in.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a shower room with cubicle, WC, bidet and pedestal wash hand basin.

The rear garden has a patio, lawn with flower and shrubs and garden shed.

Call Skitts on 01902 686868 for further information or to arrange a viewing.

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TIPTON

David Wilson Built, 3 Bed/3 Storey Modern Town House For Sale, still under NHBC guarantee, Fitted Kitchen, Entrance Hall with Cloaks, Three Bedrooms, Master with En-suite, Study, Private Garden, Garage & Parking MUST BE VIEWED TO APPRECIATE

Bloomfield Road £150,000

WEOLEY CASTLE

Well Presented First Floor Maisonette, Entrance & Hall, Landing, Lounge with Feature Fireplace, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Double Bedroom, Central Heating, Double Glazing, Shared Garden

Shenley Lane £69,950

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OLDBURY

NEW

Three Storey End Town House, Entrance with guest cloaks & shower, master bedroom/en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms, lounge with dining area, fitted kitchen & utility room, family bathroom, integral garage, Driveway & private garden with views to rear.

TIVIDALE £149,995

TIPTON

Beautifully Presented Top Floor Flat For Sale, Three Bedrooms, Entrance Hall, Bathroom & WC, Kitchen, Balcony, Lounge with Feature Fireplace, Off Road Parking.

CHURCHFIELD AVE £52,950

TIPTON

AVAILABLE NOW

First Floor Coach House. Close to Shops and Transport Links. Hall, Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes, Bathroom. Off Road Parking for Two Cars, Furnished. Available Now.

JONAH DRIVE £450

WEST BROMWICH

AVAILABLE NOW

First floor apartment on split level comprises, Hall, 2 Bedrooms, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom and Parking,Black Lake Area of West Bromwich.Must be viewed

Church Lane £450

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If you are already a homeowner, the biggest barrier to a move could be having to sell your existing home, our 105% Part Exchange Scheme can help without the pressure of you selling your old home, so come along to out development, speak to our dedicated advisors and find out how we can get you moving. If we can help, then the process will only take a short time, meaning you could be in your new home sooner than you think.

Our Sales Advisor will arrange for three valuations of your property by local estate agents. Based on the valuation received Bloor Homes will make you an offer for your home, which will represent 105% of the 'six week sale price.' If our offer is accepted, you can reserve your new Bloor Home, subject to contract & survey.

HELP TO BUY SCHEME

GREAT NEWS! – Move with 4% deposit with the brand new 'Help to Buy' Scheme. This is a Government equity scheme whereby the Government will lend you between 10% and 20% of the value of a new build home through an equity loan, which can be repaid at any time or upon the sale of your home. This Government scheme is available on all plots at Bloor Homes Satchwell Grange development in Wednesbury up to the value of £600,000.

Bloor Homes also offer other incentives on the Satchwell Grange development which can make a real difference in speeding up the purchasing process and if you reserve before the end of April, Bloor Homes will give you on completion a 42" 3D Smart TV (Terms and Conditions apply)

Full details can be found at on website www.bloorhomes.com/satchwellgrange For details of which plots are available on any of the above schemes call our Sales Advisor Pat at the sales office on 0121 505 1812 (Open Thursday - Monday) or book an appointment online.

Choose from one of the following incentives

105% Full Market Value Part Exchange

Having a full appreciation of the difficulties of buying a new home, our part exchange scheme makes it easier than ever for you to make the move to the Bloor Home of your choice.

Our Sales Advisor will arrange for three valuations of your property by local estate agents. Based on the valuations received, Bloor Homes will make you an offer for your home, which will represent 105% of the 'six week sale price'.

- If our offer is accepted, you can reserve your new Bloor Home, subject to contract and survey.
- You do not have to worry about purchasers changing their mind and wasted solicitors fees, or agreeing completion dates with a long house chain - it's just you and Bloor Homes working together to help you proceed with your purchase - and leave the rest to us, giving you more time to concentrate on moving to your new dream home.
- The Bloor Homes Part Exchange Scheme is subject to terms and conditions and is available on selected plots, subject to status for a limited period - Please see Sales Advisor for details.

Help to Buy Scheme

(up to 20% Government funded shared equity)

The 'Help to Buy' scheme has no restrictions on the size of property or bedroom numbers.

The Government will lend you between 10% and 20% of the value of a new build home, through an equity loan, which can be repaid at any time or upon the sale of your home. Please call and speak to one of our Sales Advisors for more information on the scheme.

- Not own another property on completion
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- No cap on income
- Up to a maximum of £600,000

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(*£114,360 - *£119,960 *Help to Buy Scheme)

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Home of Property

Three-bed semi on sale for £144,995

This home is on the market with agent L & S Prestige

AN immaculately presented three-bedroom semi-detached house in Willenhall is for sale priced at £144,995.

The property in Pineneedle Croft benefits from uPVC double glazing, warm air heating, garage, block paved driveway and rear garden with accommodation briefly comprising of entrance porch, hallway, lounge, separate dining area, conservatory, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and refitted shower room.

On the ground floor the lounge, 15ft 10in by 11ft 1in, has a feature surround with living flame gas fire and archway to a dining area measuring 8ft 11in by 8ft 4in and with patio doors to the conservatory which is 9ft 4in by 8ft 8in and has French doors to the rear.

The kitchen, 9ft by 8ft 4in, has a range of wall and base units with work tops over, composite sink with mixer tap, integrated fridge, space and plumbing for washing machine, integrated double oven with ceramic hob and chimney extractor over.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a shower room with cubicle, vanity wash hand basin and WC.

Outside to the front is a block paved driveway to the garage, while the rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with two paved patio areas.

Call L & S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595.

Part exchange considered for family property

The house is open to offers in the region of £205,000

WITHIN easy reach of Rugeley town centre, this four-bedroomed detached house is an ideal family home and also open to part exchange.

The house in Chichester Close, has spacious lounge, four bedrooms, garage, driveway, gardens and is on the market with agent Chase Independent for offers in the region of £205,000.

From the entrance hall, stairs lead to the first floor landing, a door opens to the a guest WC and at the end of the corridor is the kitchen.

The lounge has a bay window and double doors to the dining room, where patio doors open to the rear garden.

The kitchen has a stainless steel sink and drainer, and inset four-ring gas hob. There is a utility room.

On the first floor, the master bedroom includes fitted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room.

The bathroom has a white suite.

The driveway provides ample parking, there is also a garage and a rear garden which is mainly laid to lawn with a gravelled seating area.

Visit www.chaseindependent.co.uk for further details or call 01889 583232 to arrange a viewing.

Home of Property

Three-bed for offers of £109,950

Call Bartrams for details of the house in Gayton Road

A THREE bedroom end terraced property in Gayton Road, West Bromwich, is on the market priced at £109,950.

Close to local commuter routes and Sandwell Hospital, the property briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, kitchen, dining area, three bedrooms and bathroom, and also benefits from majority central heating and double glazing and front and rear gardens.

On the ground floor the lounge, 18ft 3in by 10ft 11in, has a tiled fireplace while the kitchen – 1ft 9in by 10ft – has wall and base units, stainless steel sink drainer, plumbing for washing machine and a pantry, with a dining area measuring 8ft 5in by 7ft 7in.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with bath and wash hand basin, with a separate WC.

Outside to the front is a paved driveway for two cars and lawn, and to the rear a paved patio and lawn.

Call Bartrams on 0121 601 9370 to arrange a viewing.

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SMETHWICK

Doulton Drive

A rare opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, thoughtfully improved and well presented FAMILY HOME, occupying a pleasant position upon this popular development and truly requiring internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), spacious open plan lounge/fitted dining kitchen area (having oven/hob), sitting room, study, first floor offering additional lounge, sitting room/potential bedroom 5, dining room/potential bedroom 6, w.c (off landing), fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), second floor offering 4 bedrooms, house bathroom, and separate shower room. Garage and rear garden providing pleasant outlook. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £329,950

BEARWOOD

Weston Road

An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, well presented and thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property, conveniently situated for local shopping facilities avaliable within Bearwood Town Centre, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, attractive dining room, delightful lounge, kitchen, rear vestibule, attractive downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, additional w.c (off landing), and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £144,950

OLDBURY

Valentine Road

A delightfully presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge (with feature fireplace), super re-fitted dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, off road parking, and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £124,950

OLDBURY

Salop Road

A thoughtfully improved and well presented, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shops/amenities, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, re-fitted dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £109,950

SMETHWICK

Auckland Road

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, dining room, lounge, attractive kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, study/box room, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £96,950

OLDBURY

New Henry Street

A well proportioned double bedroomed ground floor flat conveniently situated for local amenities/facilites and local train station, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with useful storage cupboards off), lounge, kitchen, double bedroom, shower/wet room, and communal garden area. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £73,950

OLDBURY

Hill Top Road

An opportunity to acquire a well presented, deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant position within this established neighbourhood and truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, attractive fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated dishwasher), utility area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy foregarden, drive providing off road parking and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £128,950

ROWLEY REGIS

Penncricket Lane

An attractive, well presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 Bedroomed traditional style semi detached property having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing, requiring internal inspection and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, re-fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), utility, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, off road parking and pleasant good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £109,950

SMETHWICK

Milton Court

Deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 bedroomed flat pleasantly situated within this retirement complex, most conveniently situated for local shopping facilities available within Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with useful store off), attractive spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden and communal parking area. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £68,000

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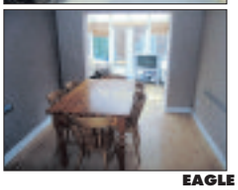
PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

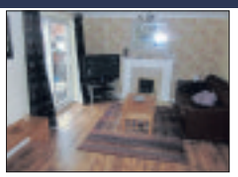


EAGLE LANE
TIPTON

- Modern four bedroom detached
- Lounge and dining room
- Garage conversion/study
- Conservatory
- Downstairs WC, en suite to master bedroom
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Off road parking, side and rear gardens
- Potential to buy land to the side from developer
- No upward chain

£189,995

FEATURED PROPERTY



PEAKE DRIVE
TIPTON

- Energy Rating D
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Study
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Concrete print driveway
- Rear garden

WAS £142,995 NOW £139,995

MANAGER'S CHOICE

ASTLEY CLOSE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating C
- Modern two bedroom semi detached
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Conservatory
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Off road parking
- Rear garden

£102,500

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WILSON DRIVE
TIVIDALE

- EPC Rating C
- Three bedroom detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen diner
- Downstairs WC

£164,950

MYRTLE TERRACE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Three bedroom detached
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen

£129,995

ST MARKS ROAD
TIPTON

- Three bedroom end terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom with separate WC
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)

£79,995

THELMA ROAD
TIPTON

- EPC Rating E
- First floor two bedroom flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

£54,995

DUDLEY ROAD
TIPTON

- Energy Rating E
- Period four bedroom semi detached
- Lounge/dining room
- Oak room/sitting room
- Downstairs WC

WAS £224,995 NOW £219,995

HODGES DRIVE
TIPTON

- Modern four bedroom detched
- Lounge and dining room
- Fitted kitchen and utility
- Downstairs WC, en suite to master bedroom
- Energy Rating C

WAS £199,995 NOW £196,995

ALISON CLOSE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- New Build Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen And Utility Room
- Downstairs WC And En Suite to Master Bedrom

WAS £199,995 NOW £194,995

BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD
TIPTON

- Energy Rating E
- Three Bedroom Detached Property
- Lounge And Dining Room
- Downstairs Shower Room And Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Garage And Off Road Parking

WAS £184,995 NOW £179,995

PRIORY CLOSE
WEST BROMWICH

- Energy Rating E
- Three Bedrom Detached
- Lounge And Kitchen
- Downstairs WC And Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Off Road Pirking And Garage

WAS £184,995 Now £179,995

JOHNS LANE
TIPTON

- Three bedroom detached former bungalow
- Lounge
- Fully fitted kitchen/diner
- Master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe
- Underfloor heating to ground floor

Was £154,950 Now £149,995

THE SQUARE
TIPTON

- Energy Rating D
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Lounge And Dining Room
- Downstairs WC And Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking And Garage to Rear

WAS £154,995 NOW £149,99

LOVATT CLOSE
TIPTON

- Energy Rating D
- Three bedroom modern detached
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)

WAS £149,995 NOW £145,995

DOE BANK ROAD
TIPTON

- Energy Rating D
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Lounge, Didning Kitchen And Conservatory
- Downstairs WC And Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

WAS £144,995 NOW £139,995

WOODING CRESCENT
TIPTON

- Energy Rating D
- Extended three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge/dining room
- Extended kitchen
- Conservatory

WAS £144,995 NOW £139,995

GLEBEFIELDS ROAD
TIPTON

- Energy rating D
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)

WAS £128,500 NOW £124,995

KEYWORTH CLOSE
TIPTON

- Energy Rating C
- Two bedroom modern semi detached
- Lounge & Dining kitchen
- En suite to master bedroom

WAS £115,000 NOW £109,995

OCKER HILL ROAD
TIPTON

- Energy Rating G
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Lounge, Kitchen And Conservatory
- Driveway

WAS £114,995 NOW £109,995

CHATWINS WHARF
TIPTON

- Two bedroom mid terrace bungalow
- Lounge
- Warden controlled
- Over 55s
- Energy Rating D

WAS £80,995 NOW £79,995

COBURG CROFT
- EPC Rating C
- Three bedroom modern detached
- Lounge

£144,995

DARBYS HILL ROAD
- EPC Rating C
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge/dining room

£135,000

ASTON STREET
- Energy Rating C
- Three bedroom mid terrace
- Lounge and dining room

£119,950

GOSPEL OAK ROAD
- EPC Rating C
- Two bedroom semi detached
- Lounge

£99,995

JEAN DRIVE
- EPC Rating C
- Two bedroom mid terrace
- Lounge

£94,995

HIGHFIELD ROAD
- Energy Rating D
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Lounge

£91,995

HOLCROFT STREET
- EPC Rating D
- Two bedroom mid terrace
- Two reception rooms

£89,995

EASTFIELD ROAD
- Energy Rating C
- Three bedroom mid terrace
- Lounge

£89,995

SANDGATE ROAD
- EPC Rating D
- Two bedroom semi detached
- Through lounge /dining room

£72,500

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West Bromwich

Birmingham Road
Well presented second floor flat. briefly comprising of One Bedroom, One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Communal Parking, Communal Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 50 (E)

£60,000

West Bromwich

Canterbury Road
Two bedroom semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Central Heating and Double Glazing. Energy Rating 59 (D)

£90,000

Wednesbury

Crankhall Lane
Semi-Detached Property. Briefly comprising of Two Bedrooms, Lounge, Conservatory, Central Heating and Double Glazing where specified, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden and Alarmed. No upwards chain. Enwergy Rating 67 (D)

£92,500

West Bromwich

St Stephens Road
Well-presented mid terraced property. Briefly comprising of One Reception Room, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Gardens, Central Heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. EPC- TBC

£100,000

Walsall

Radford Close
Mid terraced property in need of modernisation. The Property briefly comprises of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Store Room, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended. EPC-TBC

£100,000

West Bromwich

57 Vicarage Road
Well presented mid terraced property. Briefly comprising of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Two Bedrooms and One Loft Bedroom , Rear Garden, Double Glazing and Central heating Where Specified. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 49 (E)

£106,000

Wednesbury

Roberts Road
Well presented semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Down Stairs Cloakroom, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing highly essential. Energy Rating 52 (E)

£110,000

West Bromwich

Peel Street
Well presented terraced property. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Driveway, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 69 (C)

£120,000

West Bromwich

Walsall Road
Semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended. Energy Rating 47 (E)

£130,000

West Bromwich

Horsecroft Drive
Spacious three bedroom semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of Two Reception Rooms, Conservatory, Fully Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Off Road Parking, Front and Rear Gardens. No Upwards Chain. Viewing essential. Energy Rating 69 (E)

£140,000

West Bromwich

Hall green Road
Well presented semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Cloakroom, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. •No Upwards Chain! Viewing Highly Recommended. Energy Rating 72 (C)

£140,000

West Bromwich

Bexley Grove
Immaculately presented semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Upstairs Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 49 (E)

£165,000

West Bromwich

St Johns Close
Well presented three bedroom detached property in Sandwell Valley. Briefly comprising of Through Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Hot Air System, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Garage and Alarmed. Energy Rating 55 (D)

£175,000

West Bromwich

Charlemont Road
••REDUCED BY £20,000••
Immaculately presented detatched bungalow. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, WC, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom - Wc Guest, Three loft Rooms, Large Rear Garden, Large Driveway Off Road Parking. Energy Rating 36 (F)

£199,950

West Bromwich

Malvern Close
Executive detached dormer bungalow. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Room, Kitchen Diner, Cloakroom, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage With Forecourt, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 48 (E)

£220,000

West Bromwich

Haypits Close
Well Presented detached bungalow in a desired area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Central heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate this property. EPC - TBC

£225,000

West Bromwich

Harrington Croft
Immaculately well-presented detached property in the desired area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Cloak Room, Conservatory, En Suite To Master Bedroom, Front and Rear Garden, Off Road Parking and Garage. Energy Rating 75 (C)

£300,000

West Bromwich

Hollyhedge Road
Impressive and tastefully improved four bedroom detached property located in the desirable location of Hollyhedge Road. The property Briefly comprises of Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Conservatory, Four Bedrooms and two with En Suits, Family Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and Rear Garden. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate the quality of this home. Energy Rating (F)

£350,000

West Bromwich

Camberley
••SOLD WITHIN 7 DAYS••
Well presented Fourth floor duplex style flat. Briefly comprising of Lounge and Kitchen Diner to the upper level, Two Double Bedrooms and Bathroom to the lower level. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate this property. EPC-TBC

£37,000

West Bromwich

Surrey Crescent
••SOLD WITHIN 7 DAYS••
Well-presented semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, Off Road Parking, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 61 (D)

£100,000

West Bromwich

Plympton Mews
••SOLD WITHIN 7 DAYS••
Well-presented mid terraced property. Briefly comprising of One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Two Bedroom, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 71 (C)

£115,000

West Bromwich

Julia Gardens
••SOLD WITHIN 7 DAYS••
Well presented Bungalow. Briefly comprising of 2/3 Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted kitchen, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Garage, Front and Rear Gardens, Storage Heaters and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended. Energy Rating 31 (F)

£115,000

Oldbury

Farm Road
••SOLD WITHIN 7 DAYS••
Immaculately presented spacious semi-detached property. Briefly comprising of One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Kitchen Diner, Down Stairs WC, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Spacious Rear Garden, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing highly essential. •NO UPWARDS CHAIN! Energy Rating 73 (C)

£130,000

West Bromwich

Vowles Road
••SOLD WITHIN 7 DAYS••
Well presented detached property. Briefly comprising of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, En Suite to Master, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage, Double Glazing and central Heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 79 (C)

£175,000

West Bromwich

Beacon View Road
Immacuatly presented one bedroom first floor flat. Briefly comprising of Large Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom and Bathroom. Available December for six months to long term. Sorry no pets, no smokers and no DSS Energy Rating 79 (C)

£395 PCM

West Bromwich

Jefferson Place
well presented first floor apartment. Briefly comprising of Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Electric Heating and Fully Furnished. Available end of May. Viewing highly recommended. Energy Rating 72 (C)

£475 PCM

West Bromwich

Monkgate Drive
Spacious modern two bedroom flat. Briefly comprising of Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Dining Room, One Double Bedroom and One Single Bedroom, Bathroom, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking. Available End MAY 2013. EPC 82 (B)

£525 PCM

West Bromwich

Booth Road
Semi detached property. Briefely comprising of Large Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Good Sized Rear Garden, Large Driveway, Double Glazing and Central Heating. Available immeadiately from 6 month - long term, Energy Rating 36 (F)

£550 PCM

Bilston

Wellington Road
Well presented end terraced property. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Lobby, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central heating Where Specified. Energy Rating 49 (E)

£550 PCM

West Bromwich

Lincoln Road
Spacious semi-detached property. The property briefly comprises of Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Newly Fitted Kitchen, Down Stairs Bath and Shower Room, En Suite, Garage, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing essential! Energy Rating 71 (C)

£650 PCM

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NEW

Park Road, Bearwood

- A Tradional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Generously Sized Garden
- Situated Close to Lightwoods Park
- EP Rating: TBC

Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW

Middle Leasowe, Quinton

- A Well Maintained End Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Useful First Floor Storage Room
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £84,950

NEW

Ridgacre Road, Quinton

- A Tastefully Decorated Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen Diner
- Off Road Parking & Double Garage
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £199,950

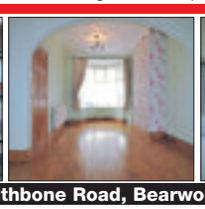
NEW PRICE

Park Road, Bearwood

- A Much Improved Traditional Terrace
- Modern Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms
- Close to Parks & Schools
- Contemporary Styled Living Space
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW PRICE



Rathbone Road, Bearwood

- A Beautifully Presented Mid terrace
- Stunning Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Period Features
- EP Rating: E

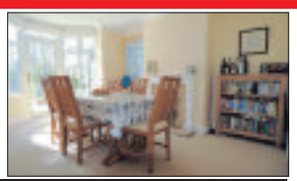
Offers in the region of £139,950

NEW PRICE

Upper St Marys Road, Bearwood

- A Delightful Mid Terrace
- Close to Amenities
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £144,950



Monmouth Road, Bearwood

- A Stylish, Traditional Semi Detached
- Re-fitted Family Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms
- Close to Warley Woods
- Modern, Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating: TBC

Offers in the region of £234,950

Reginald Road, Bearwood

- A Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Superb Bathroom
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £107,000

NEW PRICE

Glyn Farm Road, Quinton

- A Well Presented Semi-Detached
- Double Garage
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Ground Floor WC
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £154,950

Park Road, Bearwood

- A Three Bedroom Terrace
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Stunning Extended Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- Upstairs Bathroom
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £184,950

Katherine Road, Bearwood

- Delightful Traditional Terrace
- Character Features
- Two Bedrooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £129,950

Perry Hill Road, Oldbury

- A Comprehensively Refurbished Semi
- En Suite to Master Bedroom
- Five Bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen & Conservatory
- Integral Garage & Parking
- E P Rating D

Offers in the region of £280,000

Goodrest Avenue, Halesowen

- A Most Attractive Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £219,950

Rawlings Road, Bearwood

- A Charming Three Bed Terrace
- Ground Floor WC
- Generous Garden with Summerhouse
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £137,950

Thimlemill Road, Smethwick

- A Charming Detached Bungalow
- Two/Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £189,950

Hurst Road, Smethwick

- A Charming Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage Plus Off Road Parking
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £139,950

Tiverton Road, Smethwick

- A Spacious End Terrace
- Four Bedrooms
- Guest W.C
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £139,950

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- Central Heating and Double Glazing
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£139,950

SOMERSET ROAD, B71 1HA

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- A Detached Property
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- Central Heating and Double Glazed
- Paved Driveway, Two Reception Rooms

£214,950

TANACETUM DRIVE, WS5 4SL

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- Two Bedroomed
- Double Glazed, Paved Driveway
- Freehold

£114,950

HARTLAND ROAD, B71 3DF

NEW

- A Mid Terraced Propetry
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Majority Double Glazed
- Kitchen/ Diner, Large Rear Garden

£122,500

AKRILL CLOSE, B70 9SU

NEW

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Kitchen/ Diner, Freehold

£124,950

FARLEY ROAD,B70 9AN

REDUCED

- A Detached Property
- Three / Four Bedrooms
- Electronic Gated Access
- Viewing Highly Recommended

£194,950

WALSALL STREET, WS10 9EN

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Derolict Buildings for Redevelopment, with Outline Consent, for residential use, Single Plot.

Main Road Position close to Town Centre

GUIDE PRICE £40,000

DAGGER LANE, B71 4BB

ONLINE AUCTION

- A 'Queen Anne' Style Property
- Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Upward Chain
- Freehold
- Sought After Location
- Access to Park

GUIDE PRICE £140,000

HALL GREEN ROAD, B71 3JT

REDUCED

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility Area, Freehold

£169,950

EARL STREET, B70 9HR

QUICK SALE

- A Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Kitchen/ Diner

WAS £124,950 NOW £115,000

DENBIGH DRIVE, B71 2RY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold

£115,000

KESTEVEN ROAD, B71 1JH

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Buyer Incentives Available

£149,950

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room

£99,950

MONMOUTH DRIVE, B71 2SU

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Front & Rear Garden

£124,950

CALDWELL STREET, B71 2DW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

£79,950

CANTERBURY ROAD, B71 2LF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking and Rear Garage
- Double Glazing and Central Heating

£88,950

BRIDGWATER CLOSE, WS9 9PH

TO LET NEW

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Refurbished
- Credit Checks Required

£550 DEPOSIT £550 PCM

BEVERLEY ROAD, B71 2LS

TO LET NEW

- A Modern First Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- No Pets, No Dss
- Credit/Reference Checks Required

£425 PCM £425 DEPOSIT

THE HEIGHTS, STONE CROSS, B71 3AZ

- A Spacious Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lift to all floors
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating
- Secure Entry System
- Secure Underground Parking
- Convenient for local amenities

£104,950

CAMBERLEY, B71 3PF

TO LET

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Credit Checks Required
- Viewing by Appointment Only
- Available Now

£375 PCM £375 DEPOSIT

SOLLY GROVE, DY4 0HS

TO LET

- A First Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Fully Furnished
- Credit Check Required

£475 PCM £475 DEPOSIT

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ADVERTISEMENT

COME AND SPEAK TO THE EXPERTS ABOUT HELP TO BUY THIS WEEKEND

THERE is only one place to turn this weekend for information on the new Government-backed Help to Buy scheme and that's leading housebuilder Barratt West Midlands.

Barratt is inviting local homebuyers to a dedicated Help to Buy event on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April, taking place at its developments across the West Midlands.

Between 10am and 5pm visitors will be able to come and talk to the experts about the new Help to Buy scheme which is available to existing homeowners as well as first time buyers. Better still anyone choosing to reserve a property over the weekend can do so for just £1 and will receive free fitted carpets and flooring in their new Barratt home.

Graydon Worthing, Sales Director for Barratt West Midlands, comments, "We're looking forward to welcoming visitors during our Help to Buy event this weekend and explaining this exciting new scheme."

Help to Buy is open to any homebuyers purchasing a new build property up to the value of £600,000. All you need is a four per cent deposit, and combined with a Government funded equity loan of 20 per cent, buyers only need a mortgage of 76 per cent.

Graydon continues, "Our expert Sales Advisers are ready to talk you through and answer any questions you have on Help to Buy. This weekend only, buyers just need £1 to reserve a home at any of our developments in the West Midlands.

"And there's more! As an extra we are also giving those reserving this weekend free fitted carpets and flooring in their new Barratt home, which will save a significant amount of money.

"There has never been a better time to buy your dream home and we're confident that local homebuyers in the West Midlands will be pleasantly surprised by how easy it could be to move to a Barratt home with Help to Buy, so come and visit us this weekend!"

> 'Homebuyers will be pleasantly surprised by how easy it could be to move to a Barratt home with Help to Buy'

Barratt Homes is currently selling properties across the West Midlands, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

To find out more or to find your nearest development please call the sales information centre on 0844 811 9933 open seven days a week from 8am to 9pm or log on to www.barratthomes.co.uk

5 STAR HOME BUILDER CUSTOMER SATISFACTION HBF 2013 HOME BUILDERS FEDERATION

Barratt West Midlands has been awarded the maximum five star official rating from the Home Builders Federation (HBF) for the fourth year in a row. The news was announced after more than 20,000 new home buyers across the country took part in this year's HBF customer satisfaction survey.

Get Help to Buy this weekend

RESERVE FOR £1 AND RECEIVE FREE FITTED CARPETS AND FLOORING – This weekend only!

Join us from 10am at our special Help to Buy† events this weekend, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April, to find out how this fantastic new Government-backed scheme could help to get you moving to a new Barratt home.

- With a 20% equity loan you could buy with a 4% deposit and 76% mortgage
- Open to existing homeowners as well as first time buyers
- You own 100% of your new home from the start
- Only available on new build homes in England

Help to Buy† – Here's how it works:
Worked example based on a £100,000 purchase price

You arrange mortgage (76%)	£76,000
Deposit (4%)	£4,000
Government equity loan (20%)	£20,000
Total purchase price	£100,000

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT.

5 STAR HOME BUILDER CUSTOMER SATISFACTION HBF 2013 HOME BUILDERS FEDERATION

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The Pavilions Coombs Road, Halesowen B62 8AF
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from £124,950 to £299,950
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The Bridles

The Bridles, Bell Lane, Bloxwich WS3 2JW
2, 3 & 4 bedroom houses
from £124,950 to £289,950
Open daily, 10am to 5pm

Get more at barratthomes.co.uk or call 0844 811 9933

BARRATT HOMES *find the one*

† Limited availability, selected plots only, subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Scheme cannot be used in conjunction with any other Barratt offer. See website for details. Help to Buy is available in England only. Prices correct at time of going to press. Images typical of Barratt homes. Terms and conditions apply. £1 reservation fee and offer of free fitted carpets and flooring is only available on selected plots. For reservations taken by 28/04/13. No cash alternative available. Speak to the sales adviser for further details.

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Countrywide

CECIL DRIVE, TIVIDALE

£79,950
• TWO BEDROOM • GROUND FLOOR MAISONETTE • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY • EPC: C

BRITANNIA ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW
£82,000
• LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • OFF ROAD PARKING • TWO BEDROOMS • END TERRACE • REAR GARDEN • NO CHAIN • EPC: E

PARKFIELD, BARTLEY GREEN

WAS £89,950
£84,950
• LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN/DINER • REAR GARDEN • THREE BEDROOMS • END TERRACE • REAR GARDEN • EPC: D

YORK ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

SOLD
94,950
• TWO BEDROOM • SEMI DETACHED • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • FAMILY BATHROOM • FRONT DRIVEWAY • CENTRAL HEATING • DOUBLE GLAZING • OFF ROAD PARKING • GARDENS

BIRCH LANE, OLDBURY

NEW
£107,000
• LOUNGE • KITCHEN • UTILITY AREA • TWO BEDROOMS • REAR GARDEN • CENTRAL HEATING • DOUBLE GLAZED • EPC: D

PRINCESS ROAD, OLDBURY

NEW
£114,950
• LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • REAR GARDEN • THREE BEDROOMS • REFURBISHED • CENTRAL HEATING • DOUBLE GLAZED • EPC: D

WHITE ROAD, SMETHWICK

NEW
£115,000
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • GUEST W.C • THREE BEDROOMS • END TERRACE • REAR GARDEN • EPC: TBC

ST PAULS ROAD, SMETHWICK

NEW
£119,950
• THROUGH LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • OFF ROAD PARKING • TWO BEDROOMS • EASILY CONVERTED BACK TO THREE • REFURBISHED • NO CHAIN • EPC: D

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CHESTNUT ROAD, OLDBURY

SOLD
£169,950
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • OFF ROAD PARKING • THREE BEDROOMS • GARAGE • REAR GARDEN • EPC: E

BIRCH GROVE, OLDBURY

NEW
£170,000
• TWO BEDROOMS • BUNGALOW • LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN • FRONT DRIVEWAY • EPC: D

APSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

WAS £174,950
£169,950
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • OFF ROAD PARKING • FOUR BEDROOMS • REFURBISHED • NO CHAIN • EPC: TBC

BIRCH ROAD, OLDBURY

WAS £199,950
£180,000
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS • FITTED KITCHEN • OFF ROAD PARKING • THREE BEDROOMS • EXTENDED • CAR PORT • REAR GARDEN • EPC: E • NO CHAIN

POOL LANE, OLDBURY

£189,950
• THREE BEDROOMS • DETACHED • LOUNGE • FITTED KITHCEN • UTILITY ROOM • FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARAGE

WHITLEY COURT ROAD, QUINTON

NEW
£259,950
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QUEEN STREET, OLDBURY

WAS £289,950
£264,950
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CP BIGWOOD AUCTION

2nd MAY
At Aston Villa Football Ground

104 Lots To Include Properties On Behalf Of

Birmingham City Council Walsall Council Sandwell

Lot 1 33 Fountain Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 2 Selly Oak Centre, 646-648 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 3 65 Thornthwaite Close, Rednal, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 4 9 Chiswell Road, Winson Green, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 5 49 Claypit Lane, West Bromwich ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 6 Land Forming Site of 1A/1B Duke Street, West Bromwich ..... **Land**
Lot 7 Land off Nicholls Road, Tipton ..... **Land**
Lot 8 Land off Nicholls Road, Opposite Princes End Industrial Park, Tipton ..... **Land**
Lot 9 257 Glastonbury Crescent, Mossley, Bloxwich ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 10 Yr Hen Siop Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 11 Golchdy Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 12 Bungalow 1 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 13 Bungalow 2 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 14 Bungalow 3 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 15 Bungalow 4 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 16 Bungalow 5 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 17 Bungalow 6 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 18 Bungalow 7 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 19 Bungalow 8 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 20 Bungalow 9 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 21 Bungalow 10 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 22 Chalet M Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 23 Chalet 62 Plas Panteidal, Aberdovey ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 24 Unit A Great Hampton Street, Birmingham ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 25 71 Dogpool Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 26 32 St Agnes Road, Moseley, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 27 76 Hubert Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 28 86 & 86A High Street, West Bromwich ..... **Commercial Investment**
Lot 29 20 Daniels Road, Birmingham ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 30 715-726 Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton ..... **Commercial Investment**
Lot 31 11 Barnett Road, Willenhall ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 32 177 Acheson Road, Shirley, Solihull ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 33 2 Compton Court, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 34 59 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 35 61 Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 36 9 Long Lane, Blackheath, West Midlands ..... **Commercial Investment**
Lot 37 127 Abingdon Road, Perry Common, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 38 21 Pritchard Close, Smethwick, Warley ..... **NOT BEING OFFERED**
Lot 39 Garages on the South West Side of Westhouse Grove off Brandwood Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham ..... **Garages**
Lot 40 207 Aldershaw Road, South Yardley, Birmingham ..... **NOT BEING OFFERED**
Lot 41 18-19 Worcester Street, Kidderminster ..... **Commercial Investment**
Lot 42 7 Marley Heights, Colwall Walk, Acocks Green, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 43 242 Stafford Road, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 44 1 Albion Cottages, Birmingham Road, Water Orton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 45 20 Ellesmere Road & 41 Wood Street, Shrewsbury ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 46 22 Henwood Road, Compton, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 47 42 Nova Croft, Coventry ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 48 3 Berrington Road, Leamington Spa ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 49 50 Harman Road, Wylde Green, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 50 28 Regent Road, Handsworth, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 51 58 Hospital Street, Walsall ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 52 110 Weybourne Road, Great Barr, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 53 Land to the rear of 9 Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth, Shropshire ..... **Land**
Lot 54 862 Pershore Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 55 98 Stafford Street, Walsall ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 56 164 Rutland Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 57 126-126A Lea Village, Kitts Green, Birmingham ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 58 Flat 9, 3 Colton Square, Leicester ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 59 Flat 21, 3 Colton Square, Leicester ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 60 Flat 25, 3 Colton Square, Leicester ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 61 Former Garage Site Church Green, Bilston, Wolverhampton ..... **Land**
Lot 61A Land at Hospital Lane (Rear of 59b Mason Street) Coseley ..... **Land**
Lot 62 23C Church Lane, Wolverhampton ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 63 Unit 134 Middlemore Industrial Estate, Smethwick, Birmingham ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 64 28 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 65 62 Fowlmere Road, Great Barr, Birmingham ..... **NOT BEING OFFERED**
Lot 66 53 Park Road, Woodsetton, Dudley ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 67 Unit 23 The Business Centre, James Road, Tyseley ..... **SOLD PRIOR**
Lot 68 83 Wheatley Close, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 69 98 Solihull Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 70 57 Lyndon Road, Solihull, West Midlands ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 71 73 Lyndon Road, Solihull, West Midlands ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 72 164 Bridge Street West, Newtown,Birmingham ..... **Development/Redevelopment**
Lot 73 28 Glebe Farm Road, Stechford, Birmingham ..... **Commercial Investment**
Lot 74 24 Hay Green Lane, Bournville, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 75 1 Little Park, Quinton, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 76 39 North Street, Dudley ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 77 Regent Road, Hanley, Stoke on Trent ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 78 42 Dolphin Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 79 59 Coleshill Street, Fazeley, Tamworth ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 80 39 Alexander Road, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 81 10 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 82 16 Crown Lofts, Marsh Street, Walsall ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 83 51 Gallery Square, Marsh Street, Walsall ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 84 57 Gallery Square, Marsh Street, Walsall ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 85 17 Tyber Drive, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 86 31 Hampton Court Road, Harborne, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 87 7 Dunstall Lane, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 88 Former Garage Court Adj. 44 Surrey Crescent, West Bromwich ..... **Land**
Lot 89 224 Norton Lane, Earlswood, Solihull ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 90 49 Rooker Avenue, Wolverhampton ..... **Commercial Vacant**
Lot 91 209 Antrobus Road, Handsworth, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 92 Methodist Church Premises, 54 St Michaels Road Pitshill, Stoke on Trent ..... **Development/Redevelopment**
Lot 93 Garage Site off James Watt Street, West Bromwich ..... **Garages**
Lot 94 127 Bushbury Lane, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 95 122 Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 96 15 Ash Road, Saltley, Birmingham ..... **SOLD PRIOR** **Residential Vacant**
Lot 97 20 Stockton Court, Mason Street, Wolverhampton ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 98 1 Hodson Avenue, Willenhall ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 99 122 Oldknow Road, Small Heath, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 100 21 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich Residential ..... **Vacant**
Lot 101 Flat 2, 36 Wordsworth Road, Small Heath, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**
Lot 102 41 Brierley, Beacon View Road, West Bromwich ..... **Residential Investment**
Lot 103 30 Twickenham Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham ..... **Residential Vacant**

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- Detached Four Bedroom House
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- Double Glazing
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- Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Essential

£279950

WEDNESBURY
ROOTH STREET
- Butt Detached
- 4 Bedrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Garden
- New Roof
- New Damp Proof Course

£245,000

WEDNESBURY
WESTMORE WAY
- Detached Double Fronted
- 5 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Walk In Shower
- Room
- Downstairs W/C
- Electric Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential

£239,950

GREAT BARR
INGESTRE DRIVE
- 3 Bed Link-Detached
- Open Plan L-Shape Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Integral Garage
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £225,000

WEDNESBURY
JOCKEY LANE
- Link Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Utility Area
- Extended Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential

£199,995

Stella Grove
Great Barr
- Extended Three Bed Semi
- Through Lounge
- Extended Fitted Breakfast/Kitchen
- High Specification Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Majority Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Large Enclosed Rear Gardens
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location

Offers in excess £159,950

DUDLEY PORT
JOHNS LANE
- 3 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Guest W.C.
- 3 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- NO CHAIN

£149.000

WEDNESBURY
MAPLE AVENUE
- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- 1 Reception room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Private Parking
- Downstairs WC

£142,950

WEDNESBURY
CREW ROAD
- Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Storey Extension
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential

£139,950

TIPTON
BARTLETT CLOSE
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Utility
- Downstairs WC
- Detached Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens

£129,950

WEST BROMWICH
ADELAIDE AVENUE
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Detached Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens

£129,950

WEDNESBURY
VICARAGE ROAD
- 3 Bedrooms
- End Terraced
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Terrace
- Well Decorated
- Viewing Essential

£124,950

GREAT BARR
KINGS ROAD
- 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

In Excess of £120,000

TAME STREET
WEST BROMWICH
- Terrace
- 2 Bedrooms
- Reception room
- Downstairs WC
- Private Parking
- Rear Garden
- Family Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen

£120,000

TIPTON
CATHERTON CLOSE
- Semi Detached
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Essential

£115,000

OLDBURY
CEMETERY ROAD
- Mid Terraced
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Viewing Essential

£115,000

TIPTON
BERNARD ROAD,
- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached House
- Dining Room
- Extended Fully Fited Kitchen
- Utility
- Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens

£114.995

WEST BROMWICH
FRANCIS WARD CLOSE
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Front and Rear Gardens

£109,950

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WEDNESBURY
WESTBURY ROAD
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Rear Lobby
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

£99,950

FRANCHISE STREET
WEDNESBURY
- Mid Terraced House
- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- No Chain
- Viewing Essential

£89,950

WEDNESBURY
BROADWATERS AVENUE
- 2 Bed
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- 1 Reception Room
- Well Presented
- Gas Central Heating

£84,950

DANGERFIELD LANE
WEDNESBURY
- Semi
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception rooms
- Paved garden & disabled access
- Private Parking
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ideal for investment

£79,950

SMETHWICK
CYGNET COURT
- NO CHAIN
- 2 Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- 1 Reception Room
- Family Bathroom
- Private Parking
- Good Location
- VIEWINGS ADVISED

£72,999

WEDNESBURY
ADDISON TERRACE
- 1 Bedroom Flat
- Ground Floor
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Private Rear Garden

£69,950

WEDNESBURY
BURRS DRIVE
- 2nd Floor Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Designated Parking
- 50% Shared Ownership
- Very Well Presented

£47,500

WEDNESBURY
BURRS DRIVE
- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Second Floor
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom & Ensuite
- Family Bathroom
- Designated Parking
- Viewing Essential

£45000

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GREAT BARR
ANSTEY ROAD

- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Part Furnished
- Lounge
- SORRY NO DHSS

£650 PCM

GREAT BARR
SCARSDALE ROAD

- 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating

£600 PCM

GREAT BARR
ALDRIDGE ROAD

- Mid Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom

£550 PCM

GREAT BARR
HARLESTON ROAD

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom

£550 PCM

Landlords!
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NO Set Up Fees
& 6 Months Rent Guarantee
FREE OF CHARGE

GREAT BARR
HADDON ROAD

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- SORRY NO DHSS

£550 PCM

WALSALL
SORREL DRIVE

- First Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

£430 PCM

WEDNESBURY
BARFORD CLOSE

- End Terraced House
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- One Bedroom
- DHSS considered

£395 PCM

WEDNESBURY
MANIFOLD WAY,

- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£375 PCM

DARLASTON
PHOENIX RISE,

- One Bedroom Flat
- First Floor
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£370 PCM

WEDNESBURY
TALBOT HOUSE

- One Bedroom Flat
- First Floor
- Wednesbury Town Centre
- MORE FLATS AVAILABLE WITHIN TALBOT HOUSE!
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£330 PCM

WEDNESBURY
TALBOT HOUSE, SPRINGHEAD

- Studio Flat
- Good Condition
- Available Immediately
- Town Centre Location
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£250 PCM

GREAT BARR
NAVIGATION LANE

- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Excellent Condition
- End Terraced House
- Two Bedrooms

£550 PCM

WEDNESBURY
DARLASTON ROAD

- Semi Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Guest W.C.
- Dining Room

£625 PCM

WEDNESBURY
BRUNSWICK PARK

Ground Floor
Central Heating
Electric Hob & Oven
Shower
OVER 55'S RETIREMENT HOMES

£425 PCM

WEDNESBURY
BAGNALLS WHARF

- First Floor Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Designated Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 PCM

WEDNESBURY
BAGNALLS WHARF

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Second Floor
- Lounge/Diner
- Separate Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 PCM

TAMEBRIDGE
THETFORD WAY

- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating

£525 PCM

HIGH STREET
TIPTON

- One Bed
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Considered

£370 PCM

HIGH STREET
TIPTON

- Two Bed
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Considered

£340 PCM

HIGH STREET
TIPTON

- One Bed
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Considered

£300 PCM

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GOLD MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2012 THE SUNDAY TIMES

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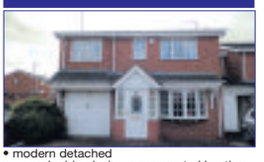
West Bromwich 0121 525 2111
Great Bridge 0121 522 3733
Wednesbury 0121 505 3533

or email: westbromwich@pauldubberley.co.uk

Constantine Way, Bilston

• modern detached
• upvc double glazing + gas central heating
• 4 bedrooms
• EPC rating C, garage
OFFERS AROUND: £184,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Bridgewater Drive, Bilston

• modern detached
• upvc double glazing + gas central heating
• no upward chain
• EPC rating D, 4 bedrooms
OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Southgate Way, Dudley

• modern ground floor apartment
• upvc double glazing
• electric heating + 1 bedroom
• epc rating B, no upward chain
OFFERS AROUND: £54,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Anvil Crescent, Bilston

• modern end terrace
• upvc double glazing + gas central heating
• no upward chain
• EPC rating D, 3 bedrooms
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Salter Road, Tipton

• end terrace
• double glazing
• gas central heating
• EPC rating F, 2 bedrooms
OFFERS AROUND: £73,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Cory Croft, Tipton

• modern Detached
• large enclosed plot + spacious family accommodation
• upvc double glazing + gas central heating
• EPC rating D, 3 bedrooms + en suite
OFFERS AROUND: £170,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Hudson Road, Tipton

• extended semi detached
• upvc double glazing
• 3 bedrooms
• side carport,
OFFERS AROUND: £122,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Gospel Oak Road, Tipton

• modern semi detached
• upvc double glazing + gas central heating
• no upward chain + well presented ideal starter home
• epc rating D, 2 bedrooms + conservatory
OFFERS AROUND: £97,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Wakeman Drive, Oldbury

• modern extended detached
• upvc double glazing + gas central heating
• extended to ground floor + sought after location
• epc rating C, 3 bedrooms + en suite
OFFERS AROUND: £179,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Victoria Road, Tipton

• Detached
• double glazing
• gas central heating
• 3 bedrooms, epc rating D
OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Elizabeth Walk, Tipton

• extended semi detached
• double glazing + gas central heating
• extended to ground and first floor + sought after location
• rear garden + EPC rating D, 4 bedrooms
OFFERS AROUND: £169,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Hempole Lane, Tipton

• Modern Semi Detached
• UPVc Double Glazing + Gas Central Heating
• No Upward Chain
• EPC rating D, 3 bedrooms + en suite
OFFERS AROUND: £135,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

West Bromwich, Hambletts Road — NEW

• Popular Residential Location
• Close To Local Ammenities
• No Upward Chain
• Energy Rating, Three Bedrooms
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Herbert Street — NEW

• ★Attention Investors★
• Converted Terrace House
• Two One Bedroom Flats
• Energy Ratings, Great Rental Location
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Lyndhurst Road — NEW

• Popular Residential Location
• Within Easy Distance of Sandwell Hospital
• Traditional Semi Detached
• Energy Rating E, Three Bedrooms
OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Horsecroft Drive — NEW

• Popular Residential Location
• Semi Detached Property
• Three Bedrooms
• Energy Rating C, Double Glazed Conservatory
OFFERS AROUND: £140,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Shropshire Way — NEW

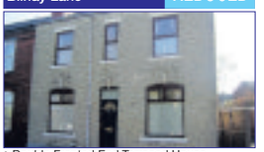
• First Floor Apartment
• One Bedroom
• Lounge
• Energy Rating C, Fitted Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: £60,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, St Clements Lane — REDUCED

• An Attractive Modern Ground Floor Maisonette
• No Upward Chain!
• Two Bedrooms
• Excellent Town Centre Location, Central Heating
OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Rayford Drive — REDUCED

• Popular Residential Location
• Easy Access To Motorway Links
• Semi Detached Property
• Energy Rating D, Three Bedrooms
OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Bilhay Lane — REDUCED

• Double Fronted End Terraced House
• 2 Good Size Bedrooms
• Central Heating, Almost Entirely Double Glazed
• Energy Rating E, Lounge, Dining Room
OFFERS IN EXCESS OF: £80,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Walsall Road

• Attractive Extended End Terraced House
• Centrally Heated
• Almost Entirely Double Glazed
• Energy Rating D, Hallway & Lounge
OFFERS AROUND: £117,000
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Haypits Close

• Delightful Detached Property
• Sought After Cul De Sac Location
• Internal Viewing Essential
• Energy Rating, En Suite To Master Bedroom
OFFERS AROUND: £259,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Albion Field Drive

• Delightful Detached Bungalow
• Easy Distance To Sandwell Hospital and Park
• Easy Distance To West Bromwich Town Centre
• Energy Rating D, Garage With Extra Off Street Parking
OFFERS AROUND: £189,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

West Bromwich, Durham Drive

• Easy Access to Sandwell Hospital
• Three Bedroom Semi Detached
• No Upward Chain
• Energy Rating TBC, Popular Residential Location
OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing: 0121 525 2111

Elmhurst Court, Wednesbury

• A Modern 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing
• EPC Rating: B, No Chain!
OFFERS AROUND: £55,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Johnson Close, Wednesbury — NEW

• A Spacious 3 Bedroom End Terrace
• Cul-de-Sac Location & No Chain
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• EPC Rating: TBC, Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Boswell Close, Wednesbury — NEW

• A Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• No Upward Chain!
• EPC Rating: TBC, Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
OFFERS AROUND: £150,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Mounts Road, Wednesbury

• An extended 3 Bedroom House
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• No Chain!
• EPC Rating: B, Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Weston Drive, Tipton

• A Modern 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Off Road Parking
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• Energy Rating D, Storm Porch & Reception Hall
OFFERS OVER: £110,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Hodgkiss Close, Wednesbury

• A Modern 4 Bedroom Executive Detached Home
• Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing
• Energy Rating C, Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location
OFFERS AROUND: £235,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Oldbury Street, Wednesbury

• 3 Bedroom Detached
• Spacious & Well Presented
• Entrance Porch & Hall
• Energy Rating E, Lounge
OFFERS AROUND: £144,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Oaktree Road, Wednesbury

• 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Corner Plot
• No Chain!
• Energy Rating F, Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)
OFFERS OVER: £105,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Consort Drive, Wednesbury

• A Modern 2 Bedroom Starter Home
• No Chain!
• Ideal First Time Purchase/Investment
• Energy Rating E, Lounge
OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Crawford Avenue, Darlaston

• 3 Bedroom Mid Townhouse
• Cul-de-Sac Location
• Gas Central Heating
• Energy Rating E, UPVc Double GLazing (where specified)
OFFERS AROUND: £94,995
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Brunswick Gardens, Wednesbury — NEW

• Modern Four Bed Detached
• Breakfast Room & Utility
• No Chain
• Master Bedroom With En-Suite,
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £220,000

Rooth Street, Wednesbury — NEW

• Spacious Two Bed Mid-Terrace
• Lounge & Dining Room
• Popular Location
• Conservatory,
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £125,000

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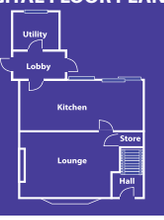

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- Three bedrooms
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- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and utility
- Side garage
- Off-street parking for two cars

OFFERS BASED ON £225,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

WHEATLEY CLOSE, OLDBURY

- Freehold end town house
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom with individual shower
- Lounge & open plan refitted kitchen/dining room

Offers based on £134,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

PUBLIC AUCTION

At

THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE, THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6NR

on

WEDNESDAY, 13th MAY 2013 @ 6.30pm

Anticipated Price Range

Lot 1: 165 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5HU
Freehold 3 bedroomed end terraced, fire damaged and needing improvement . . . . . **£80 - 85,000**

Lot 2: 20 MORETON CLOSE, HARBORNE B32 2JN
Modern centrally heated and double glazed 3 bedroomed town house . . . . . **£80 - 85,000**

Lot 3: 35 PALE STREET, DUDLEY DY1 2BN
Centrally heated and double glazed 1 bedroomed ground floor flat . . . . . **£45 - 50,000**

Lot 4: 28 DRAYTON ROAD, BEARWOOD B66 4AJ
Freehold 3 bedroomed villa in need of modernisation . . . . . **£circa. 100,000**

Lot 5: 1 THE ELMS, LADYWOOD B16 0AZ
Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated and double glazed terraced . . . . . **£70 - 80,000**

Lot 6: 237 QUEENS ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6NX
Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated and double glazed town house . . . . . **£70 - 75,000**

Lot 7: 2 ALEXANDRA COURT, OLDBURY B68 8LX
Modern 2 bedroomed first floor flat . . . . **£45 - 50,000**

Lot 8: 90 ST. MARYS ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5DG
Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced villa needing some improvement . . . . . **£100 - 105,000**

Lot 9: 10 BOWDEN ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 7PA
Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated terraced . . . . . **£80 - 85,000**

Lot 10: 163 ST. PAULS ROAD, SMETHWICK B66 1QR
Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced needing full improvement . . . . . **£70 - 75,000**

Lot 11: 438 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8DQ
Freehold detached centrally heated 3 bedroomed corner residence . . . . . **£190 - 200,000**

Lot 12: 36 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, BEARWOOD B66 4DW
Freehold 3 bedroomed villa needing full modernisation . . . . . **£60 - 70,000**

PITCAIRN ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Close to Warley Woods
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Front sitting room and
- Extended through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room & downstairs cloakroom
- Side garage
- Off-street parking

OFFERS BASED ON £205,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

DAWSON STREET, SMETHWICK

- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Neatly laid out garden
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

Offers Based On £104,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

46 HALL ROAD, SMETHWICK

A superbly presented freehold semi-detached property located in this established neighbourhood and being convenient for comprehensive day-to-day amenities, offering gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed accommodation to include three bedrooms, fully tiled bathroom with electric shower, hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, lean-to, downstairs W.C., impressive garden to the rear and having the benefit of off-street parking to the front, with internal inspection to be appreciated.

Offers based on £139,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

BIRCHLEY PARK AVENUE, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold detached property
- Easy motorway access at junction 2 of M5
- Centrally heated, alarmed and double glazed
- Three bedrooms with master bedroom having en-suite shower room and family bathroom
- Hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge/dining room, conservatory and kitchen
- Side garage, garden to the rear & off-road parking

Offers based on £184,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

LINCOLN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Easy reach comprehensive day-to-day amenities to include Bearwood High Street and Warley Woods
- Traditional freehold semi-detached residence
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Much improved accommodation
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled well appointed bathroom
- Hall, lounge, refitted dining/kitchen, laundry/utility and downstairs W.C.
- Laid out gardens & off-street parking for two cars

Offers absed on £113000

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MILTON COURT, BEARWOOD

- Purpose built development
- Second floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Landscaped garden surrounds
- Exclusive to the over 55w
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £59,950

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AVERY MYERS CLOSE, OLDBURY

- Modern freehold town house
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Fully tiled refitted bathroom
- Hall and spacious lounge
- Open plan kitchen//dining room
- Conservatory
- Off-street parking
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £105,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

LINCOLN ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and shower room
- Spacious lounge and kitchen/breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre

ENERGY RATING: D

Offers based on £109,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Traditional freehold villa residence
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms & spacious bathroom to first floor
- Dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen and downstairs W.C.
- Established gardens
- Ideal for first time purchasers
- Good facilities close at hand
- Easy access City Centre
- ENERGY RATING:D

Offers based on £109,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

25 LEAHOUSE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled shower room
- Hall, dining room and lounge
- Kitchen and utility
- Side garage & gardens to front and rear

Offers based on £149,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

11 LOXLEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Immaculate and most carefully maintained
- Double glazing, central heating and burglar alarm
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Hall, lounge, separate dining room & fitted kitchen
- Mature well stocked gardens

Offers based on £157,950

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67 GALTON ROAD,

A traditional style freehold villa residence located in this popular neighbourhood within easy reach of both Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods, offering gas centrally heated accommodation to include three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom to the first floor, impressive through lounge/dining room, refitted kitchen/breakfast room and delightful garden to the rear, having the benefit of comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand to include easy access to Birmingham city centre and with internal inspection a

Offers based on £179,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

242 GALTON ROAD : BEARWOOD

- Spacious family accommodation
- Two living rooms
- Attractive refitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower
- Separte W.C.
- Well maintained and presented
- ENERGY RATING : E

Offers Based on £174,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

FLORENCE ROAD, OLDBURY

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Close to Smethwick High Street & Cape Hill
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gardens and garage
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUYERS
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- SPACIOUS FAMILY ACCOMMODATION
- Easy access to Bearwood High Street, Warley Woods and Lightwoods Park
- Centrally heated, double glazed and alarmed
- Three bedrooms
- Hall, vestibule and inter-communicating through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen and refitted bathroom

Offers based on £147,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Jaguar's sensational F-Type answers hype

By Ian Dooley

It's been a long wait, but finally it's here. Jaguar's F-Type has had one of the longest build-ups of any car in recent years, but all thehype now has to stop and the car itself is required to do the talking.

Jaguar says the F-Type is its first 'proper' sports car in 52 years, and as the name suggests, it has to follow in the footsteps of the E-Type. Massive shoes to fill, of course, but view one alongside the other and you can see lineage, not pastiche.

The F-Type nods to its great-grandparent in the cut-off nose and high rear deck, but it's a thoroughly modern design.

It pulls the neat trick of looking sensational in a range of colours and the option of light or dark wheels gives extra scope for tailoring. Looks-wise, it's a solid-gold hit.

And it's clever with it, being sculpted out of aluminium just like the bigger XJ saloon. That helps to keep the weight down while remaining as strong as a conventional steel structure, and ups the recyclability too.

It's a convertible only, of course, but the wise decision to stick with a fabric roof means a 12-second raising or lowering routine and non-sightly design compromises. It's a strict two-seater and the boot ismodest but you could fit a generous weekend's luggage in there without having to skimp. Approach the door and you press a button to pop out the flush-fitting door handle – a feature that keeps the overall design slick – and drop into the driver's seat.

The superb new Jaguar F-Type combines style with power

Stunning looks evoke the Jaguars of old including the E-Type

It's snug but not cramped, and aside from the button-covered steering wheel, the cabin is a lesson in simplicity. A row of straightforward switches, the familiar Jag touchscreen and neat climate controls complete the job. The joystick-like gear lever encourages you to 'fire' it when selecting Drive by pushing the trigger-like button; a clever ploy to get you in the mood.

The three-model range comprises of the F-Type V6, F-Type V6S and the top V8S. But there's no such thing as an 'entry-level' model here. The only thing telling them apart is a discreet badge front and rear plus quad exhaust pipes on the V8S. Fire it up and there is a surprisingly strident crackle from the exhaust, another area where there has been effort expended to deliver the right kind of feel. Set off in the standard V6 and there's an instant feeling of 'rightness'. The steering is quick and accurate but smooth, the ride quality is immediately impressive while remaining in firm touch with the road.

Squeeze

Left to its own devices, the eight-speed automatic shifts quickly and smoothly and you can surf along on the generous torque.

It's sporty, but it's still a Jaguar. It won't be long before you want to up the pace and you have a choice in how you go about this.

A simple squeeze of the accelerator releases another chunk of torque while the gearbox will shift down if required, but ideally you'll hit the switch to put it into Dynamic mode. Depending on the model, this opens up the exhaust, sharpens throttle and gearbox response, stiffens the suspension and reduces assistance to the steering. The most dramatic change comes in the noise from the exhaust. Squeeze the accelerator hard and you get a sophisticated but vocal rasp, and when you back off there's half-a-dozen loud crackles too. You'll do it on purpose just to hear it over and over.

Smooth and effortless though it is, the F-Type really shines whenpressing on. The surety of its responses instils plenty of confidence,and as you start to push it harder through challenging bends, it just keeps on gripping, staying flat and controlled whatever the surface is doing.

It deals with broken surfaces remarkably well, but you can tweak all the individual Dynamic settings and soften the suspension again if desired. Even if you don't, it's never harsh. It's unquestionably fast too.

The F-Type starts with 335bhp, and if you never sampled the more powerful versions, you'd think it was plenty. With eight gears to flick through, the supercharged V6 spins up quickly and always has torque to spare.

But if you can spare the extra cash, the 375bhp of the V6S is welcome. On the other hand, the V8S is a monster; the chassis is more than capable of coping with almost 490bhp, and the resulting acceleration, speed and noise are truly breathtaking - it's a devilish delight.

We've waited patiently for the F-Type and the truth is Jaguar has delivered a truly superb car.

It has the looks and performance beyond what you might hope for, but better than that, it also rides superbly, is easy to use and has some smart design too. For sports cars at least, 2013 belongs to Jaguar.

Bumper to bumper

Car: **Jaguar F-Type V6S**
Engine: 3.0-litre petrol unit producing 375bhp and 339lb.ft of torque
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic driving the rear wheels
Performance: Top speed 171mph, 0-62mph in 4.9 seconds
Economy: 31mpg combined
Emissions: 213g/km of CO2
Price: £67,250

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Motoring

The 2 is just one of several Mazdas available on special deals including 0 per cent finance and no deposit

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The same models also qualify for a deposit contribution from Mazda. The 2 attracts a £200 benefit, with the 3 automatically receiving £1,000 towards its cost, the MX-5 £2,131 and the Mazda 5 £2,500.

It means that as well as the 2 being available from £169 per month, the 3 hatchback costs from £249 per month, the MX-5 from £255 and the 5 people carrier from £295, when buying through the special PCP deal.

The new Mazda 6 saloon and CX-5 compact SUV are also on offer, with 5.9 per cent interest finance available with no deposit required on a 42-month PCP agreement.

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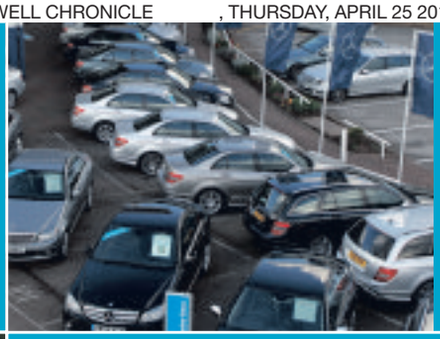

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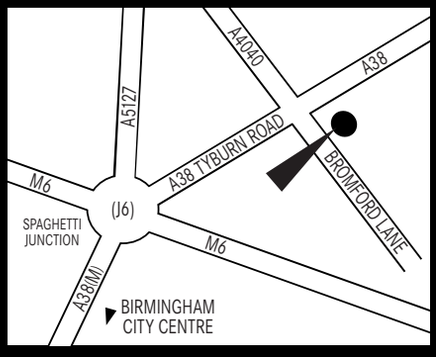

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07757 755717 / 01543 423837.

LOST CAT, SPIKE

Black and white, male with tatty ears. He cannot mew so cannot be heard.

Please check your sheds or garages.

Please contact C Morris: 01922 514092

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LOOK

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public & legal notices

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

The Council are of the opinion that the proposal may affect the setting of a listed building.

DC/13/55776	SMBC Mr Frank Caldwell	Oak House Oak Road West Bromwich B70 8HJ	Reduction in height of boundary wall attached to the west barn.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE
(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo
Area Director - Regeneration and Economy

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Fast work pays off as George triumph

The George 222
Moseley CC 184

FIRST TEAM bowlers from The George had to work hard for victory on a fast home green in Warwick and Worcester Premier Division One.

Moseley got off to a good start and led their Oldbury opponents by nine shots after the first four games, with Paul Greene (21-15) the only home winner.

The second four made wins with Shane Day (21-9) Paul Hemming (21-13) and Steve Dicken (21-15) giving The George an eight-shot advantage.

A strong back four saw wins by three of The George's county players, Phil Clinton (21-5) Steve Darling (21-7) and Pete Davenport (21-15).

Cradley S&S 244
The George 180

The seconds were beaten by an in-form Cradley side in a South Staffs Premier Division encounter. Cradley were 17 shots up after four games, Paddy McGuinness (21-16) the only visiting winner.

Neil Hopwood (21-19) and Eric Winstone (21-20) also won for The George.

Barbars do damage to visiting side

Birmingham Barbarians 26
Bloxwich 15

THE Birmingham Barbarians had a double victory – one of them on the field.

Midlands Five West (North) opponents Whittington withdrew, leaving the Perry Barr-based club avoiding bottom spot by taking the points. In their place, Birmingham turned over Bloxwich at their Moor Lane HQ.

Skipper and scrum-half Roy Fisher drew first blood on 11 minutes with a trademark try as he weaved his way from a tap penalty to touch down in the corner.

Centre Jordan Kemp ran in an interception try from 35 metres, the first of two in a fine performance.

Mark McNulty made a welcome return to the side and his influence told just before the break with a pushover try. The visitors responded with two late tries but the damage had been done leaving the Barbarians victorious.

Driveshaft failure sours Breeze's victory weekend

Motor racing

WEDNESBURY team Total Control Racing claimed the second and third wins of their 2013 Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup campaign at Donington Park.

Defending champion Carl Breeze took the victories, although a driveshaft failure soured the event for TCR.

Qualifying on pole position for Saturday's fourth round, the 2012 title winner made a superb getaway and led despite heavy pressure from Tom Ingram.

Starting Sunday morning's fifth round from pole again, Breeze headed home Ingram in another hotly-contested encounter. He won by just 0.2 seconds.

Sadly for Breeze and TCR, the champion wasn't able to take up his place on the grid for round six when a driveshaft failure – frustratingly a new part – occurred on his way from the assembly area.

Scott Faulkner gives it some gas in the forest sections
Picture: Stuart Woodier, www.rallyaction.co.uk

Faulkner and Adams have drive for 13th-place finish

Rallying

SOLIHULL driver Scott Faulkner finished 13th overall in Saturday's Butlins Somerset Stages rally.

He and co-driver Dom Adams took their Cab Auto-backed Mitsubishi Evo Nine to second place in Class N4 (current and former FIA Group N cars over 2000cc) in the event, which got under way at Minehead.

Some 150 crews set out in the competition, won by Irishman Connor McCloskey and Francis Regan in their Subaru Impreza WRC. Faulkner is now fourth overall in the (BTRDA) British Trial & Rally Drivers Association's REIS-Get Connected Gold Star Championship.

Birmingham's Andy Bull co-drove for Taunton's Harry Threlfall in the Renault Twingo, winning their class RF1.6 and finishing 78th overall.

Fairytale ending is hope for Disney

DISNEY HUNI is looking for a fairytale ending as he makes his professional boxing debut after joining a Wednesbury gym.

The 21-year-old welterweight was born in Zimbabwe and arrived in England at the age of 11, ***writes Daniel Mole.***

He mixed with the wrong group as a teenager and decided to change after seeing a friend stabbed. Huni took up boxing four years ago to put discipline and direction into his life.

He competed in the Fourth African Cup boxing tournament in Gaborone, Botswana last year and is now ready to try his hand in the paid ranks.

"I wasn't a bad lad but a few of the people I hung around with were getting into trouble quite a bit," said Huni.

Changed

"I'd have the odd street fight and could see where things were heading. My friend got stabbed and that changed things for me.

"I started going to the gym and training and then I just fell into boxing. I love it.

He moved to Smethwick from Reading a year ago and was steered to Errol Johnson's Wednesbury Boxing Academy by fellow Zimbabwean and former pro Hastings Rasani.

"I started having amateur fights. I've had 18 in total and I've won 12. Now I want to give the pro game a go."

Huni makes his professional bow on It's-A-Bout-Boxing's 'New Blood' show at the Institute in Digbeth, Birmingham, tomorrow night. Erdington light-welterweight Chris Truman is in action as he takes on South African Bheki Moyo.

Walsall's Midlands Area cruiserweight champion Chris Keane tops the bill.

For tickets call 0845 467 3930 or 07888 870650.

Morris fourth in championship

DUDLEY speedway racer Ashley Morris went close to victory in the British under-21 speedway championship.

Morris, No.1 at the former Cradley club, reached the grand final at Monmore Green, Wolverhampton but finished fourth. Robert Branford won from Morris's Workington team-mate Kyle Howarth with Jason Garrity, unbeaten in qualifying rounds, third.

Albion redeemed by second-half display

Albion 1 Newcastle 1

THE latest instalment of Albion's season encapsulated the whole campaign in 90 minutes.

It just happened to be in reverse, ***writes Steve Madeley.***

The Hawthorns draw against Newcastle was disjointed, frustrating and underwhelming at the start but purposeful, exciting and impressive by the end.

It was pretty much the opposite of the season the Baggies are producing in their first year under Steve Clarke's guidance.

It was a day of contrasting emotions at Albion HQ, from poignancy and pride before the game, to irritation and anger early on, to enjoyment and relief at a second-half display that reminded everyone just why Clarke's men sit in a hugely pleasing Premier League position despite a fragmented second half to their campaign.

English

It was a red-letter day for Billy Jones, the scorer of Albion's equaliser.

The full-back became the first Englishman to score for the club in the Premier League this season as he grabbed his maiden Baggies goal to earn Clarke's side a point they deserved in spite of a first-half display as poor as home fans have seen since the no-show against Villa in September.

If beating Liam Ridgewell in the fight for English goalscoring honours pleased Jones, the latest all-action performance of his most impressive run of form since joining the club must have delighted him.

The former Crewe and Preston player's apparent coming of age in the last month has been arguably the most encouraging aspect of a post-Christmas period in which Clarke's side have struggled to maintain the soaring standards they set back in the autumn.

The afternoon began with a moving tribute to one of the Baggies' finest servants as 25,671 people, including his widow and daughters, gave a standing ovation to Dave Matthews, the kitman of more than half a century whose unexpected passing last week left so many former colleagues at the club stunned and saddened.

Billy Jones slots his left-foot shot home to equalise for Albion against Newcastle

Baggies' Graham Dorrans at full stretch

Memories of Matthews and the moments of reflection put into perspective anything that followed. But Clarke's men had a job to do and for much of the first half they were unable to get themselves out of first gear.

If the mission for Albion was to prove that Premier League safety has not blunted their competitive edge, then the opening 45 minutes on Saturday was a resounding failure.

The second half, however, suggested they have enough reserves of desire and commitment in their collective tank to fuel them for the final five games of the season.

So, by the final whistle, it was impossible to determine for certain which period best represented the current state of the Baggies' psyche. There was little before half-time to show they were up the fight as a Newcastle side, still looking nervously over their shoulders, had things far too easy.

When Albion had the ball, they failed to keep it. When the visitors had possession, Clarke's men did not do nearly enough to force Alan Pardew's outfit into mistakes. The result was a one-sided half in which the Magpies claimed a justified lead and could so easily have found themselves out of sight.

They struck on nine minutes when Yoan Gouffran glanced a Papiss Cisse cross past a flat-footed Ben Foster as Albion gave the pair the freedom of the penalty area. They might have claimed further reward when Foster made smart saves from Steven Taylor and Yohan Cabaye, and when Cisse intercepted a dreadful Jonas Olsson pass but sent a disappointing shot over the crossbar.

But Albion, who were denied a possible penalty late in the first half, were a team transformed in the second. Toon keeper Rob Elliot had to redeem himself quickly with a smart save when he dropped a Marc-Antoine Fortune shot at the feet of half-time substitute Shane Long, and a re-energised Romelu Lukaku headed against the crossbar from a corner.

It came as little surprise when Fortune, James Morrison and Lukaku linked up to create the equaliser on 64 minutes, although few would have tipped right-back Jones as the man to provide the cool, left-footed finish.

Morrison had the chance to give Albion all three points, only for Elliot to save his late header. But a point apiece was a fair outcome.

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SPORT

Mirror men
One game reflects Albion's season
Page 51

Evo-lution
Somerset success for rally pairing
Page 51

Sports Desk 01902 319461 e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Tipton lose way but end in top 10

Tipton Town 1
Causeway United 2

TIPTON have secured a top-10 finish in the Midland Alliance – despite this slipshod performance against Causeway United.

Seventh-placed Town lost their way on Saturday and their Stourbridge-based visitors took advantage.

The home side took the lead on 11 minutes after Richard Huckfield's probing header had cleared the way for striker Danny Dubidatto beat keeper Tom Turner.

After Nathan Waite had tested Turner, Tipton crafted a fine opportunity when Matt Martin's curling cross found Dubidat but his angled effort was just off target.

Helped

Martin helped Tipton preserve their lead, denying Causeway's Craig Gregg after Matt Aston's lofted pass flew over the home defence.

On the half-hour, Paul Henley's fine interception blocked Jack Pearlman's progress.

Then Mike Wardle, for the home side, saw his 32nd-minute drive blocked, only for the midfielder to regain control and curl an effort just past the far post.

Causeway's increasingly impressive Gregg rapped the Tipton crossbar in the 35th minute.

The visitors got an equaliser in the 66th minute from centre-back Aaron Lloyd.

They then spurned a chance in the 74th minute.

Tipton were struggling to hold on to a point and succumbed in the 79th minute when Lloyd's header gave keeper Jack Hayfield no chance.

George, the bowls toast

BOWLERS from The George, Oldbury, retained their Midland Team Championship crown.

In the first round at the M&B club, Edgbaston, they turned in a good performance to see off a strong Chadsmoor side by 154-123.

In the semi-finals they put in another steady performance to beat Hadley USC 159-135. The final turned out to be an all-Warwick & Worcester affair with The George overcoming Kings Heath Park 154-121 to take the £400 prize money.

More bowls – Page 51

Wednesbury's squad, who wound up their season with a defeat, face the camera

Key players missing

Rugby union

Cleobury Mortimer 19 Wednesbury 12

WEDNESBURY coach Adam Blackford pointed to injuries which robbed him of key players towards the end of the season as they signed off with an eighth successive defeat.

They faced a difficult task against already-relegated Cleobury who finished bottom of Midlands Three West (North) but have found form in the last few weeks.

Wednesbury had most of the play, but made mistakes. Cleobury took the three chances they were given, while the visitors wasted possession and opportunities.

Nick Biddlecombe got all their points, through two tries and a conversion. Blackford said afterwards that a recruitment drive was badly needed before the start of next season. Anyone interested should contact him on 07875 442660

Wednesbury seconds entertained Burntwood thirds and took a handsome 33-0 victory to go top of the Merit Table.

Jack Harris scored two tries while Rhys Nickle, Chris Lister and Sam Ebanks also crossed, Josh Harris kicking four conversions.

BAGGIES INVEST IN YOUTH AT NEW HUB

ALBION'S academy has officially moved to its new £1.3m base opposite The Hawthorns.

The Baggies' youth set-up moved into the site in Halfords Lane after more than six months of renovation work.

The club have converted the former Tom Silk Building, which housed the Albion Foundation until last year, into dressing rooms and classrooms.

A car park between the new academy building and the Baggies' indoor pitch has been turned into an outdoor surface to be used by Albion's youngsters.

The work in Halfords Lane is part of an overall project worth £2.5m to upgrade academy facilities, with money also being spent on pitches at the Great Barr training ground.

Albion have committed £3m a year to fund player development after being awarded category one status – the highest ranking – in the Premier League's Elite Player Performance Plan.

Nurture

Sporting and technical director Richard Garlick said: "The new facilities are part of the club's wider investment in the academy.

"We are endeavouring to create the best environment in which to develop and nurture young talent.

"When the Premier League saw our plans for the redevelopment of the Halfords Lane site, they described it as 'the creation of a footballing hub' – and we believe that is exactly what we have achieved."

The new building will house the Baggies' 20 academy staff and will be used by more than 200 players aged between six and 18, whose academic education takes place at the neighbouring Sandwell Academy School.

by Steve Madeley

Baggies academy Manager Mark Harrison said: "We now have fantastic purpose-built facilities located on one site."

Meanwhile, Billy Jones has insisted that the chance to be record- breakers will spur on Albion to end their season in style.

The Baggies full-back has set his sights on a trio of Hawthorns records to cap an impressive first campaign under Steve Clarke. Jones reckons all three milestones are in their sights despite a run of just two points from their last four games.

"We want to reach 50 points, finish within the top eight and get the record number of wins in the Premier League," said Jones. "Those targets are still the same and they are still achievable with five games to go."

Albion are three points away from chalking up their best-ever Premier League points total with the 47-point haul they achieved in the last two seasons currently the mark to beat. They need one more victory to amass their most wins in a Premier League season – they are currently level with last season's total of 13.

A finish of ninth place or above would represent their highest position at the end of a Premier League campaign.

Albion full-back Billy Jones celebrates his goal against Newcastle with Graham Dorrans

Albion's Tony Grealish

Ex-Albion midfielder dies at 56

FORMER Baggies and Walsall star Tony Grealish has died at the age of 56 after a battle with cancer.

Tigerish midfielder Grealish played for Albion 74 times between 1984 and 1986, scoring five goals in the top flight as he linked up iwith ex-Coventry star Steve Hunt. He died at his Devon home on Monday.

Remembered for his combative style and beard, Grealish was signed by Hawthorns boss Johnny Giles from Brighton, who he captained as 1983 FA Cup final runners-up against Manchester United.

An Albion spokesman said: "Albion are saddened to hear of the passing of former midfielder Tony Grealish."

After spells at Manchester City and Rotherham, Grealish finished his league career with the Saddlers.

Musto in for PDC UK Open

HALESOWEN'S Michael Musto is one of four West Midlands darters to win a spot at the PDC's UK Open in June. Musto will join Bilston duo Darrell Thorpe and Gavin Baker at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton.

All three, along with Wolverhampton's Dean Stewart, got through a qualifier at Wolverhampton Civic Hall. World championship competitor Robbie Green, from Liverpool, also got through. But former world champion Keith Deller and his son Matt, 21, failed to make it past the 16-dart challenge after scores of 353 and 269, respectively.

Green beat Jordan Johnston 2-0 on Monday in the best of three legs format to secure a return to the tournament where he reached the quarter-finals in 2006.

Stewart, 43, beat Ricky Nathan 2-1 to secure a spot at the UK Open for a fourth successive year, losing 9-3 to Denis Ovens in the third run of his last run in 2012.

Musto, a 41-year-old IT technician, whitewashed Andrew Bray 2-0 while Thorpe did the same to Glen Cullen, who hit the best 16-dart score of 578. Baker will join them after a whitewash, 2-0 over Dan Elcock.

Bulldogs look to strengthen

TRAINING is under way as Birmingham Bulldogs Rugby League FC look to strengthen their squad for the new season in the Midlands Premier Division.

Training is at Aston Old Edwardians RUFC, Perry Common, on Wednesdays at 7pm with all invited.

For more details on the club, call Matt Skitt on 07971 964570.

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